BYAAAH!!!

NO WEBSITE
NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

HERES THE 4TH VOLUME OF THE MANGA GHOST HUNT.
FOR THE FANS BY A FAN.
REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF
THE GUTTER, BUT ITS STILL VISABLE, AS I REALLY
DONT CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED > CROPPED > CLEANED > SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON THE DOUBLE
PAGE SPEADS, JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO BUY IT FOR YOURSELFS.
ANYHOW ENJOY!

NEXT UP: GHOST HUNT VOLS
AND THERE'S A STILL SOME LEFT :D

BOND 007

4

GHOST HUNT

Manga by Shiho Inada

Story by Fuyumi Ono

tanoshimi

GHOST HUNT

4

Shiho Inada
Fuyumi Ono

A-HAUNTING WE WILL GO!

After a schoolboy's suicide, the team at Shibuya Psychic Research must unravel mysteries at a local high school. As fires break out in an empty office and a stinky smell sickens an entire classroom, the ghost hunters' job will take both courage and a strong stomach.

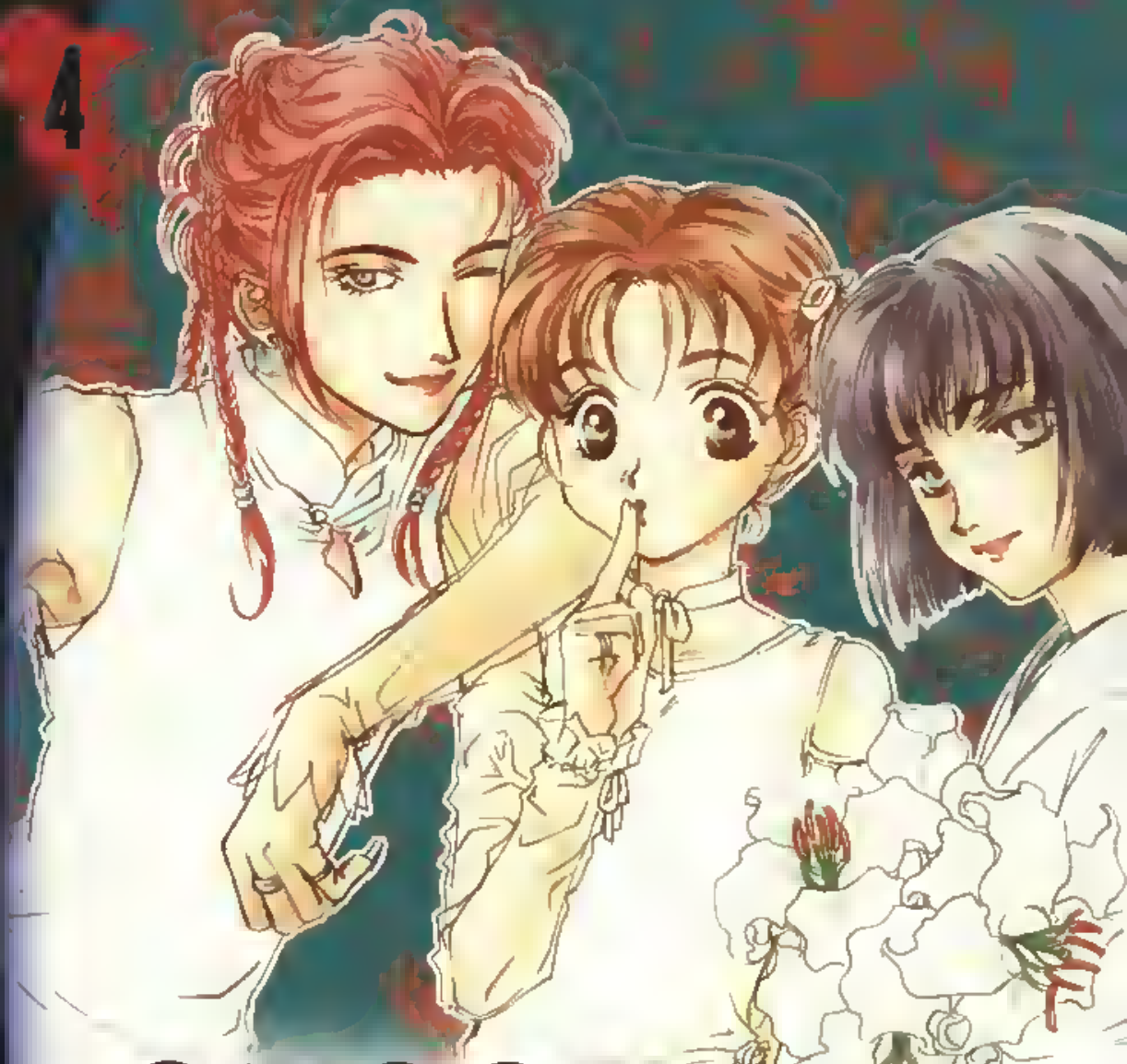
The team also investigates a church with a mysterious spirit that haunts only children, and in a hilarious twist, Mai is possessed and thinks that Lin is her daddy. But laughs quickly turn to concern when Lin hides in the snow and cannot be found. Now it's very important that SPR saves him before he freezes to death!

Includes special extras after the story!

www.tanoshimi.tv
BYAAAH SCANS

RATING T AGES 13+
tanoshimi
KODANSHA
GRAPHIC NOVEL

4



GHOST HUNT

Manga by Shiho Inada

Story by Fuyumi Ono

GHOST HUNT

4

MANGA BY SHIHO INADA

STORY BY FUYUMI ONO

TRANSLATED BY AKIRA TSUBASA

ADAPTED BY DAVID WALSH

LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

tanoshimi

LONDON

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Tanoshimi Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics, and, more important, how they differ from English honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei" or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Tanoshimi not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Tanoshimi Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid".

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "-sempai," and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten on these lists, but is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of license. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can also be insulting.

FILE 1
GHOST HUNT
4
A FORBIDDEN GAME

GHOST HUNT

THIS IS WHAT SPR IS ALL ABOUT!

CASES SO FAR AT SPR:

WE PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SOLVING VARIOUS PSYCHIC PHENOMENA. FOR EXAMPLE, WE RECENTLY WORKED ON A CASE AT AN OLD MANSION WHERE WE HAD TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM ON THE EVIL SPIRIT CAUSING THE POLTERGEIST THERE. WE'VE ALSO FOUND THE CAUSE OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA AT A SCHOOL WHERE EVERYONE WAS IN A MAJOR PANIC OVER MYSTERIOUS EVENTS THAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING!!

SPR MEMBERS ARE...

BELOW ARE SPR MEMBERS WHO WERE ORIGINALLY HIRED TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM TO GET RID OF A SPIRIT AT MAI'S SCHOOL.

LIN

HE'S A MAN OF MYSTERY WHO WORKS CLOSELY WITH NARU.

MASAKO HARA

A PSYCHIC MEDIUM. SHE IS WELL KNOWN IN THE PSYCHIC INDUSTRY.

JOHN BROWN

AN EXORCIST WHO SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT.

AYAKO MATSUZAKI

A SELF-CLAIMED "MIKO."*

*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES

HOUSHOU TAKIGAWA

FORMERLY A MONK AT MT. KOYA.

SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH (SPR)

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO SCIENTIFICALLY RESEARCH AND SUBDUE UNEXPLAINABLE PHENOMENA THAT OCCUR AROUND THEIR CLIENTS.

PRESIDENT OF SPR: KAZUYA SHIBUYA (AKA NARU)

17 YEARS OLD. HE'S COOL-HEADED, GOOD LOOKING AND SMART, BUT HE'S A SUPER NARCISSIST. SO HE HAS BEEN NICKNAMED NARU (SHORT FOR NARCISSIST).

MAI TANIYAMA

A LIVELY 16-YEAR-OLD STUDENT WHO WORKS PART-TIME AT SPR. SHE'S ENTHUSIASTIC, THOUGH NARU ALWAYS GIVES HER A HARD TIME. (SHE'S ONLY SEEN NARU SMILE IN HER DREAMS!) BUT SHE MAY SECRETLY BE IN LOVE WITH HIM♡!

"I'M
NOT
A
DOG."

SHIBUYA
キィィ
KREEE
SPR
Shibuya Psychic Research
カラン
TING-A-LING
SORRY I'M LATE!
HI. I'M MAI TANIYAMA.
I'M STILL WORKING HARD AS A PART-TIMER AT SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH.
YOU'RE LATE.
MAKE ME SOME TEA!
THAT'S WHY I JUST APOLOGIZED--

KAZUYA SHIBUYA, AKA NARU. HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF SPR. AS USUAL, HE'S ACTING IMPORTANT.
BY THE WAY, THIS IS...
THAT'S HOW YOU GREET ME FIRST THING—?
YOU ACT LIKE A GRUMPY OLD MAN
ANNOYED
THEN WHAT AM I PAYING A PART-TIMER FOR?
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDER MAKING TEA FOR YOURSELF?
MY LUKEWARM RELATIONSHIP WITH LIN-SAN IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS
I GUESS HE'S STUCK IN THE RESEARCH ROOM, HUH?
BY THE WAY, LIN-SAN...
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, BOSS!
KYOURITSU HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENT
GASP
LIKE THIS
HELLO.
LIN-SAN ALWAYS SEEMS FRIGHTENED FOR A SECOND WHENEVER HE SEES ME...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY...
IT'S FUNNY...

EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT LATELY.
APPARENTLY THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF PSYCHIC ACTIVITY HAPPENING THERE.
THE ARTICLE ABOUT RYOKURYOU HIGH SCHOOL.
BY THE WAY...
THEY WERE IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER AGAIN.
EVER SINCE, THE SCHOOL HAS CONTINUED TO HAVE STRANGE PHENOMENA...
FIRE IN A DESERTED ROOM!!
PSYCHIC PHENOMENA CONTINUE
IS IT A CURSE AFTER ALL!?
HEATED DEBATE OVER WHETHER TO PERFORM EXORCISM
CAUSE UNKNOWN!?
MYSTERIOUS FOOD POISONING
APPARENTLY BECAUSE THEY SAW "GHOSTS IN A CLASSROOM"!
THE FIRST NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WAS ABOUT A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO REFUSED TO COME TO THE SCHOOL.
THE TEACHER CLAIMED THAT HE DIDN'T SEE A DOG BUT THE STUDENTS INDEED HAD INJURIES.
IT SAYS HERE THAT SOME OF THE STUDENTS STARTED TO PANIC BECAUSE A DOG BIT THEM DURING CLASS.
UM... THE HEADLINE READS "IS IT JUST MASS HYSTERIA?" ANOTHER STRANGE INCIDENT AT HIGH SCHOOL"
OH, YEAH, THIS ONE...
AND ALMOST EVERY DAY YOU CAN FIND A STORY ABOUT THEM IN THE PAPERS OR ON TV.
KRUMPLE

I TRY TO AVOID CASES THAT MAY POTENTIALLY ATTRACT MASS MEDIA
WHY DID YOU TURN DOWN HIS REQUEST?
YOU SHOULD'VE HELPED THEM.
カラン TING-A-LING
HELLO...?
THIS COULD HELP US BECOME FAMOUS/ THEN SPR WOULD HAVE MANY MORE CLIENTS...
EH? WHY?
YES?
YES, UHH...
HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?
I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE RYOKURYOU HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL.
MY NAME IS OSAMU YASUHARA.
REALLY?

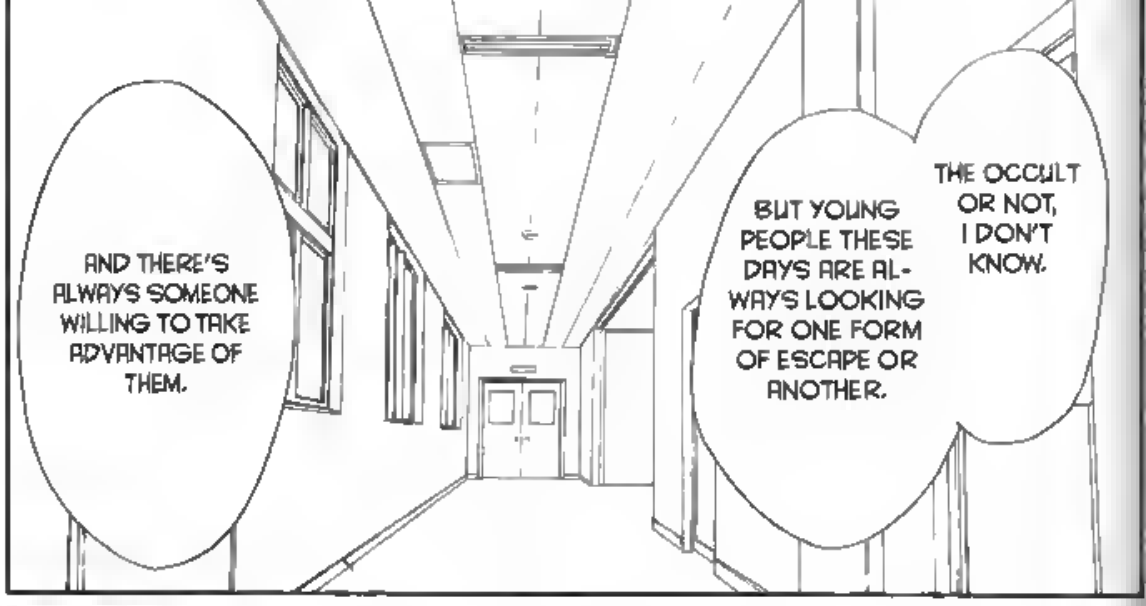
WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU REJECTED OUR PRINCIPAL'S REQUEST
I GATHERED SIGNATURES FROM THE STUDENTS WITH THE HOPES THAT YOU'D RECONSIDER.
WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP US?
THIS IS A PETITION FROM THE STUDENTS.
OUR SCHOOL IS IN BAD SHAPE AT THE MOMENT.
AT FIRST IT WAS JUST STUDENTS TELLING EACH OTHER GHOST STORIES...
BUT NOW STRANGE THINGS ARE REALLY HAPPENING EVERY DAY.
ALL OF US ARE SCARED AND CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN NEXT.

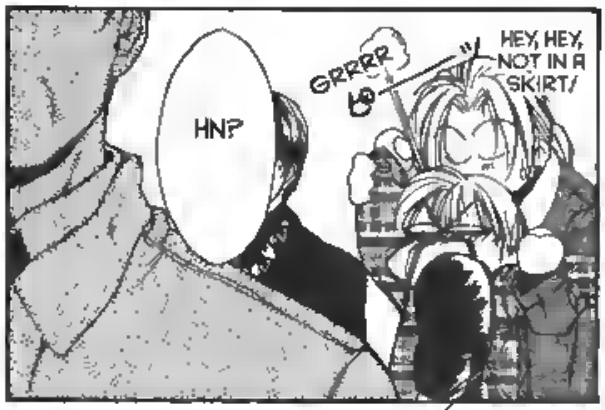
TO BE HONEST, I'M INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THIS CASE...
HOWEVER I'D RATHER AVOID ATTENTION FROM THE MEDIA.
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT!
WE'RE BOMBARDED BY JOURNALISTS COMING TO OUR SCHOOL EVERY DAY.
BUT THAT'S WHY WE WANT THIS CASE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PLEASE HELP US!

MAI, CALL RYOKURYOU HIGH SCHOOL.
TELL THEM WE ACCEPT THEIR REQUEST.
SO...
WE WENT TO RYOKURYOU HIGH, BUT...
CLERK'S OFFICE
THE PRINCI-PAL'S OFFICE?
DOWN THE HALL TO YOUR RIGHT, AT THE VERY END. YOU CAN FIND IT YOURSELF...
GLARE
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM
HE WAS RUDE/
SCHOOLS USUALLY DON'T LIKE TO DEAL WITH OUTSIDERS.
ANNOYED
SLAM

HE'S ALSO BRINGING AYAKO WITH HIM.
YEAH. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TELL HIM WHAT EQUIPMENT WE NEED AFTER WE FINISH THE INSPECTION.
AND JOHN AND MASAKO WILL BE HERE TOMORROW.
OH, IT'S COLD.
WHY WOULD HE THINK THAT?
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S LIN? IS HE COMING LATER?
HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH A THING
I WONDER IF HE THOUGHT YOU LOOKED TOO WEIRD?
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM? HE'S THE ONE WHO HIRED US/
I HOPE MAI KEEPS HER MOUTH SHUT...
REALLY/ HOW RIDICULOUS IS THIS FOR STUDENTS TO BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?
ANYWAY, USE YOUR EXPERTISE TO STOP THIS MELODRAMATIC NONSENSE/
ANGRY
I CAN IMAGINE WHAT OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS/
IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE HAVING TO PAY TO TAKE CARE OF SUCH NONSENSE.

STP
STP
MATSUYAMA-SENSEI...
TAKE THEM TO THE MEETING ROOM.
SURE...
GLARE
HEY, YOU... YOU OWN THIS COMPANY, HUH?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
HN...
I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO YOUR IMAGINATION.
WHAT!?
"HEY, YOU"!?
I'M SEVENTEEN.
WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?


AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WILLING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM.
BUT YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ONE FORM OF ESCAPE OR ANOTHER.
THE OCCULT OR NOT, I DON'T KNOW.


HN?
GRRRR
HEY, HEY, NOT IN A SKIRT!

KLATTER
ガラッ
DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S A DIRTY WORLD.

YASUHARA! WHY AREN'T YOU IN CLASS?
SENIORS ARE ALREADY ON SHORTER CLASS SCHEDULES.

DON'T WORRY.
DO YOU STILL FIND ENOUGH TIME TO STUDY FOR YOUR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM?
HE STILL FINDS TIME TO BE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT IN HIS SENIOR YEAR?
OUTSTANDING!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU GUYS.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW MY WAY AROUND YET!!!
HOW CAN I DO THAT!?
MAI, WOULD YOU GO FIND THEM NOW?
FH
I CAN DO IT FOR YOU.
OKAY! SO THIS WILL BE OUR BASE FOR THE RESEARCH.
WHAT DO WE DO FIRST?
WELL...
WE NEED TO INTERVIEW STUDENTS INVOLVED WITH EACH INCIDENT.
I CAN'T DO THAT
IT'S MY JOB TO WATCH STUDENTS' BEHAVIOR
TEACHER, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LEAVE.
PLEASE HURRY UP, I'M VERY BUSY!
THAT WOULD BE FASTER, THANK YOU.
FOOMPH
IT'S NOT NECESSARY FOR KIDS TO HAVE PRIVACY!
IT'S OUR POLICY TO PROTECT OUR CLIENTS' PRIVACY.
AS LONG AS WE'RE INVOLVED WITH THIS CASE, STUDENTS ARE ALSO OUR CLIENTS.
UH...
WATCHING THEIR BEHAVIOR... WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS...!

NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY ARE, CLIENTS ARE CLIENTS.
PLEASE LEAVE.
WILL YOU BE DOING SOMETHING YOU'D RATHER I DIDN'T SEE?
SINCE THEY'RE THE ONES WHO HIRED PSYCHICS TO COME TO OUR SCHOOL I WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.
THEN YOU SHOULD GO TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.
SKR
GR
FINE THEN/
IF ANY-THING HAPPENS I'LL BLAME IT ON THE PRINCIPAL/
SHOVE!
KLATTR
LAUGH
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR PRINCIPAL IS THE ONE WHO HIRED US.
GOOD ONE, NARU-CHAN

THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "THE LOUD BARKING OF A DEFEATED DOG!"*
*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES
NAMU...
IT'S "HOWLING," NOT LOUD BARKING, MAI.
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING US, MAI-CHAN.
TA-DAH
*HE'S NOT BALD
KAHHH!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, BALDY!
INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT YOUR STUDENTS' BEHAVIOR YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN BEHAVIOR FIRST!
TANIYAMA-SAN IS FUNNY.
あはははは
AHAHAHAHA
THANK YOU.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR JERKS.
ALTHOUGH I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING NARU-CHAN'S COMMENTS...
LET'S SEE, YASUHARA-SAN...
WOW...
SHIVERR

KLATTR
KYAAAHH
KYAAAAA
KYAH
SMASH
CRASH
AS SOON AS CLASS IS OVER PLEASE HAVE THE STUDENTS COME HERE...
KLATTR
NO
SHOVE
WHAT HAPPENED

WHAT'S THE MATTER!?
SMASH!
KLATTR
OH NO.
THE DOG...
THE...
WAIT... IT'S DANGEROUS!
IT'S THAT DOG...

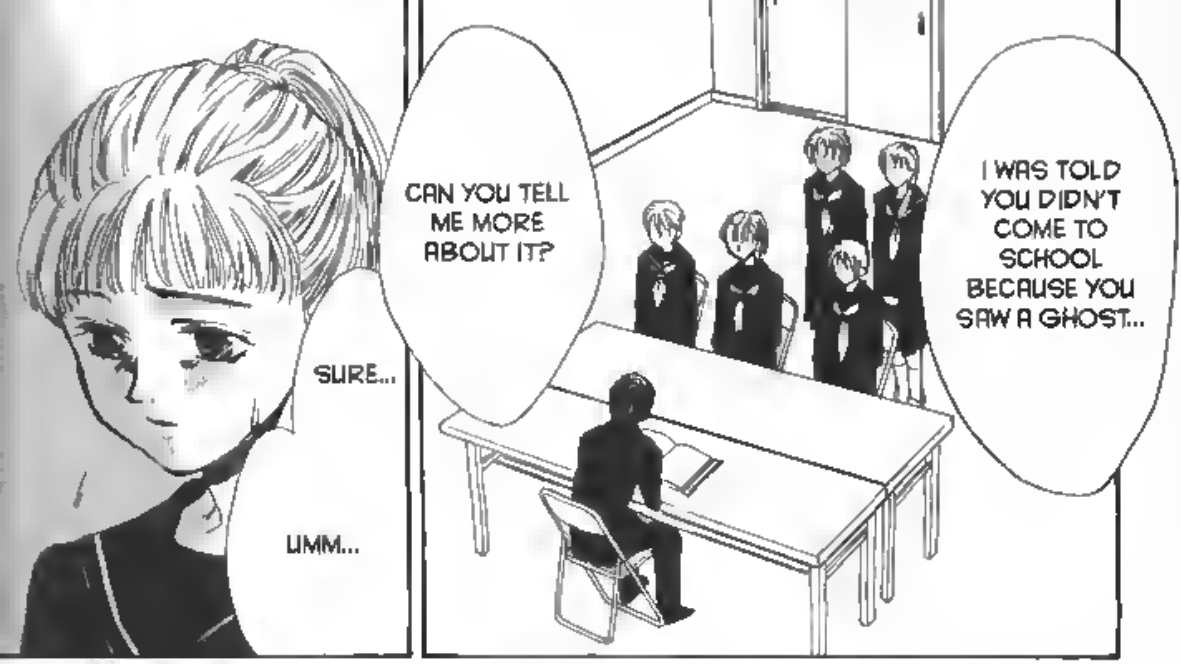
KLATTR
!
GRRRR

HUH!?
GRRRR
NARU, GET BACK INTO THE HALL!
SST

IT...
IT DISAPPEARED ...
KYAAAAH!
CALM DOWN.
RETURN TO THE CLASS-ROOM.
WHAT WAS THAT THING!?
NOO!
I'M FINE.
BUT THE GIRL..
ARE YOU OKAY?

LET'S GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
CAN YOU GET UP?
OH, I CAN CARRY HER.
SURE.
GRNT
YASUHARA-SAN...
COULD YOU GATHER THE STUDENTS WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH ANY PSYCHIC PHENOMENA AND DIVIDE THEM UP BY THE INCIDENT?
WHEW...
THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING.
FOR THIS ONE, EVEN THE TEACHER CAN'T CLAIM THAT HE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING...
YASUHARA-SAN, YOU SEEM PRETTY CALM ABOUT ALL THIS.
NO, NOT REALLY.

SLTHR...
TKN...
WABBLE
BEAT
SLTHR
WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START OUR RESEARCH CASE.
BEAT


CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT?
I WAS TOLD YOU DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL BECAUSE YOU SAW A GHOST...
SURE...
UMM...

BUT THEN...
I WAS REVIEWING THE TAPE I RECORDED DURING A LESSON.
IT HAPPENED IN OUR CLASS-ROOM... ACTUALLY IN THE LANGUAGE LAB...

I HEAR LOTS OF STATIC...
I STARTED HEARING A STRANGE VOICE PLAYING BACK...
GZH
YO
DON
YU YAHO YAMANO

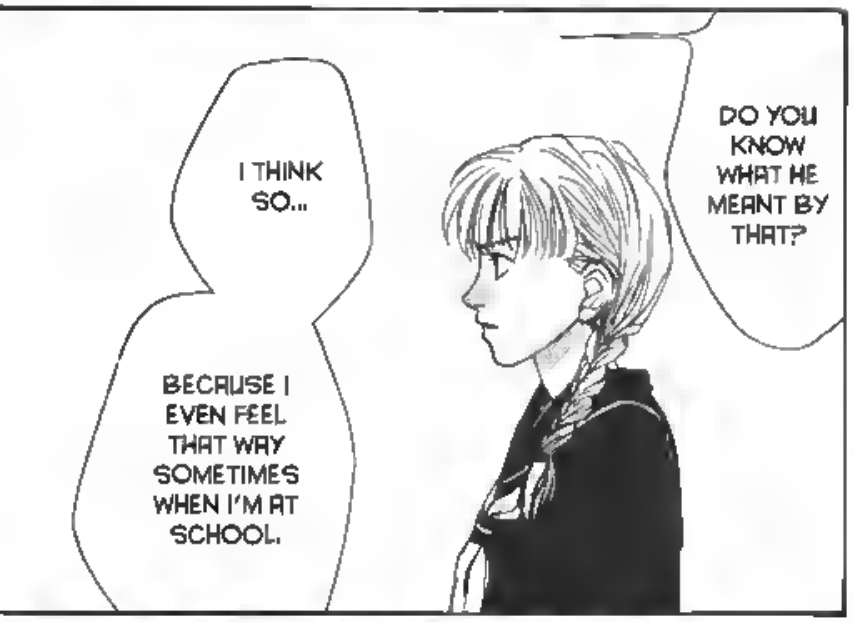
THIS IS CREEPY...
GASP
IT SOUNDS LIKE...
A CHILD'S VOICE...
WHAT IS THIS...
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
WHAT?
YO
SOMEONE'S VOICE...?
SOME-ONE IS HERE...
SO...
OH NO...

KYAAAH
I TOLD MY TEACHER ABOUT IT BUT HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME...
BUT I REALLY SAW IT!!
DID ANYONE ELSE SEE IT BESIDES YOU?
WE'VE ALL SEEN IT.
AND MOST OF US HAVE HEARD THE VOICE...
THE TEACHERS WOULDN'T BELIEVE US EVEN IF WE TOLD THEM WE WERE TOO SCARED TO COME TO CLASS.
CHILD GHOST IN LL CLASS-ROOM... OKAY.
WRITE
SO WE JUST DECIDED NOT TO COME TO SCHOOL.
CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT ANY OTHER STRANGE INCIDENTS THAT HAVE HAPPENED AT THIS SCHOOL?

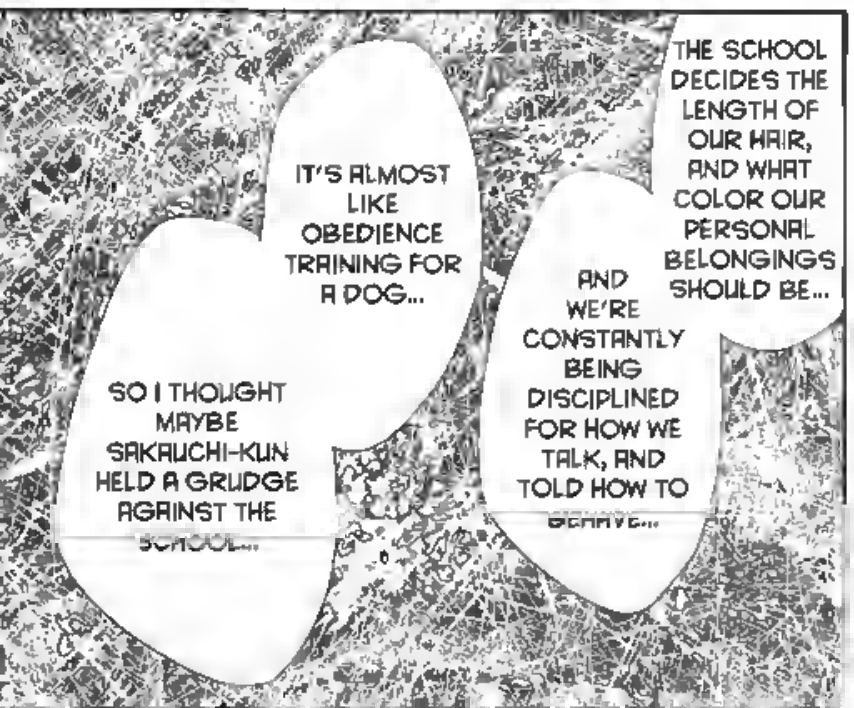
SNIFF
AND SOME-ONE SAID THEY'VE SEEN SAKAUCHI-KUN...
A BED IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE/ ALL OF A SUDDEN SOMEONE APPEARS LY-ING DOWN ON THE SECOND BED FROM THE BACK...
WHEN YOU OPEN THE INCINERATOR AN OLD MAN POPS HIS HEAD OUT, AND HIS HEAD IS ON UPSIDE DOWN...
STRANGE NOISES IN THE MUSIC ROOM
AN ANATOMY MODEL THAT BREAKS APART BY ITSELF
A LOCK THAT WOUL NEVE OPE
WHOA, SLOW DOWN...
HE WAS A FRESHMAN THAT COMMITTED SUICIDE LAST SEPTEMBER.
OR THAT HE WAS STANDING IN CLASS-ROOMS.
THAT THEY PASSED HIM IN THE HALLWAY
SAKAUCHI? WHO'S THAT?
STRANGE THINGS STARTED HAPPENING AT OUR SCHOOL RIGHT AROUND LAST FALL...
NO, ACTUALLY EVER SINCE SAKAUCHI-KUN COMMITTED SUICIDE...

I WAS WONDERING IF THESE INCIDENTS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT...
THEN THAT'S WHY
IT SAYS HERE THAT YOU GUYS TRIED TO GET RID OF THE SPIRITS ON YOUR OWN...
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT WE'RE NOT TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT THIS STUFF IS HAPPENING BECAUSE OF SAKAUCHI-KUN'S CURSE.
WE JUST COULDN'T STAND NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE COULD DO TO FIX IT...
DID YOU PERSONALLY KNOW HIM?
NO, I DIDN'T.
I'D NEVER EVEN HEARD OF HIM UNTIL AFTER HIS DEATH. BUT ANYWAY...
HIS DEATH NOTE BECAME WELL KNOWN AT ONE POINT...
A DEATH NOTE?

YES.



IT SAID, "I'M NOT A DOG."


THE SCHOOL DECIDES THE LENGTH OF OUR HAIR, AND WHAT COLOR OUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS SHOULD BE...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE OBEDIENCE TRAINING FOR A DOG...
AND WE'RE CONSTANTLY BEING DISCIPLINED FOR HOW WE TALK, AND TOLD HOW TO BEHAVE...
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE SAKAUCHI-KUN HELD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE SCHOOL...

I'M NOT A DOG...
HOLDING A GRUDGE AGAINST THE SCHOOL... HUH...
I THINK I CAN UNDER-STAND THAT.
SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH EVERY-ONE SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING THE RULES.
NOT A SINGLE STUDENT HAS THEIR HAIR DYED, YOU KNOW?
OH
YOU'RE A FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED.
HOW?
THE SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND HAIR STYLES?
?
HUH?
JUST HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I AM?
THIS ISN'T LIKE GOING TO SCHOOL IN THE OLD DAYS...
I SEE...
UH-HUH...

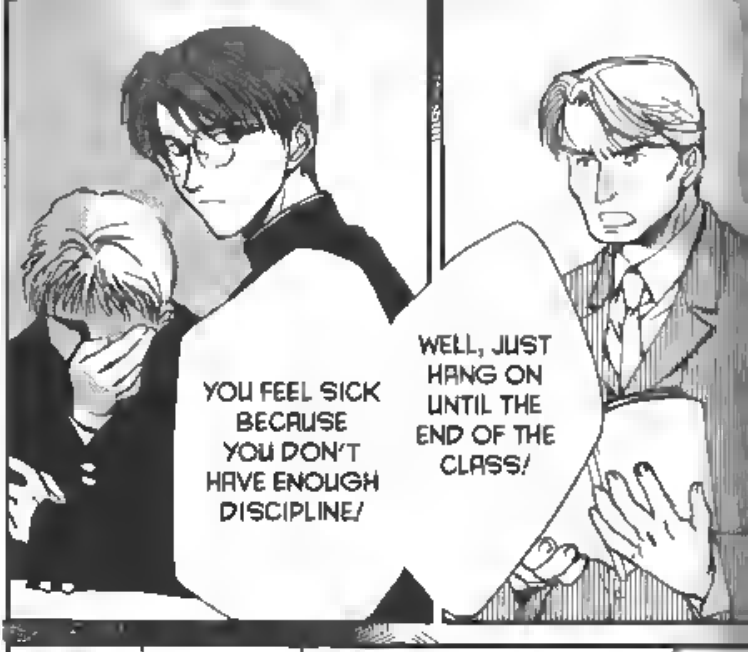
AH...
RIGHT.
PRINCIPAL
SEEING HOW THE PRINCIPAL AND MATSUYAMA BEHAVED AROUND US, YOU CAN KIND OF GUESS, RIGHT?
BASICALLY WHAT I MEAN IS
SCHOOL RULES MUST BE QUITE STRICT HERE.
KNOCK KNOCK
UHH...
THIS IS COMPLICATED...
IT WOULD EVEN MAKE PERFECT SENSE IF THIS WERE GROUP HYSTERIA RATHER THAN A PSYCHIC PHENOMENON.
THE NEXT GROUP OF STUDENTS IS HERE.
THEY EXPERIENCED THE FOOD POISONING.
SO WHEN YOU'RE OPPRESSED THAT MUCH I IMAGINE IT'S VERY STRESSFUL FOR THE STUDENTS, YOU KNOW?
WHEN YOU'RE IN SCHOOL, SCHOOL LIFE TAKES UP MOST OF YOUR TIME.

HUH
ARE YOU ONE OF THE VICTIMS AS WELL?
THAT'S CORRECT.
KLATTER
KLATTER
OKAY. FEEL FREE TO ASK US QUESTIONS.
KREEK
SURE.
IT WAS DURING THE SECOND PERIOD ON DECEMBER 18 LAST YEAR
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
ALRIGHT THEN
I MEAN IT STUNK LIKE GARBAGE OR SOMETHING.
IN THE CLASSROOM FELT STALE...
I HAD BEEN THINKING ALL MORNING THAT THE AIR
AREN'T YOU FEELING WELL?

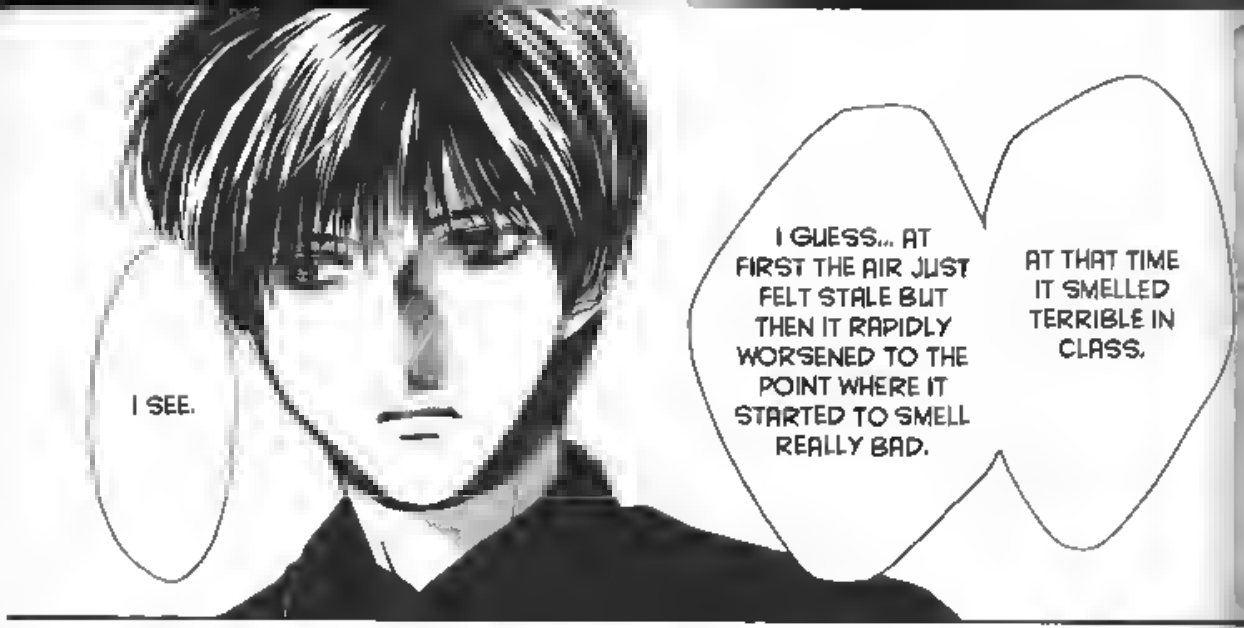
HELLO/ THIS IS SHIHO INADA/ I'M BRINGING GHOST HUNT VOL 4 TO YOU/

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE FANS OF THE ORIGINAL GHOST HUNT NOVEL, YOUR REQUEST "PLEASE HAVE YASUHARA APPEAR IN THE MANGA/"—WELL, HE FINALLY APPEARED IN THIS VOLUME/

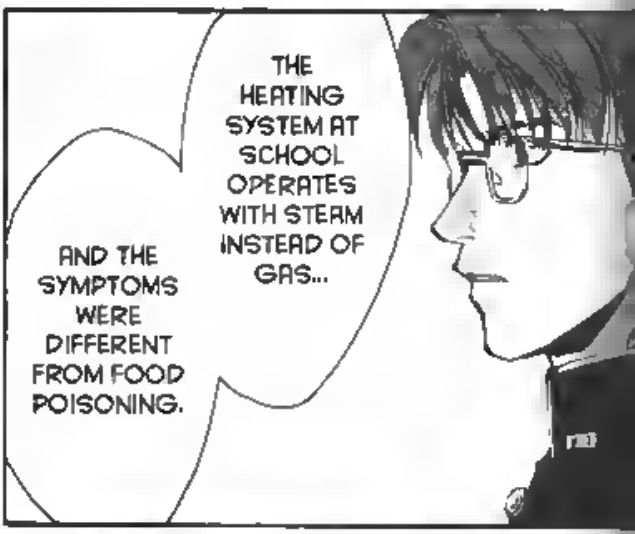
SO THEN, PLEASE GO AHEAD AND READ ON TO THE NEXT PAGE/ ENJOY...

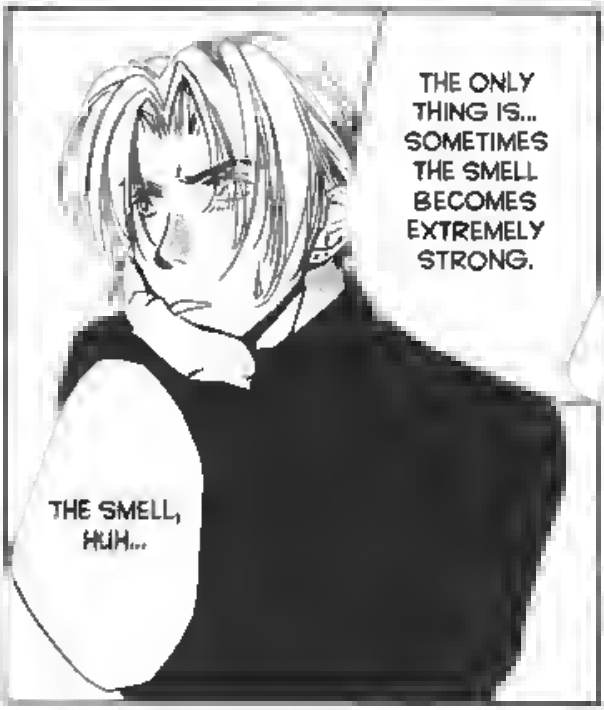


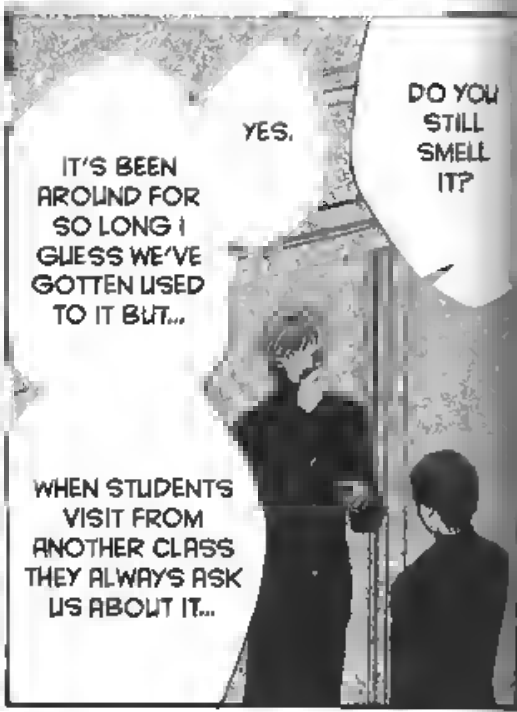
AH... SURE.
SKRCH
YASUHARA/ BRING HIM BACK/
HEY, HEY YOU/
KARAN
KLATTER
WHA... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE/ SETTLE DOWN//
HEY
ALL IN ALL...
ALMOST HALF OF THE STUDENTS IN CLASS GOT SICK THAT DAY..
HEY?
YOU DON'T FEEL WELL EITHER/?


I SEE.
I GUESS... AT FIRST THE AIR JUST FELT STALE BUT THEN IT RAPIDLY WORSENED TO THE POINT WHERE IT STARTED TO SMELL REALLY BAD.
AT THAT TIME IT SMELLED TERRIBLE IN CLASS.

SO THEN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WAS A LIE!?
I THINK IT WAS AN EXCUSE THE SCHOOL MADE UP TO COVER THEM-SELVES.


THE HEATING SYSTEM AT SCHOOL OPERATES WITH STEAM INSTEAD OF GAS...
AND THE SYMPTOMS WERE DIFFERENT FROM FOOD POISONING.

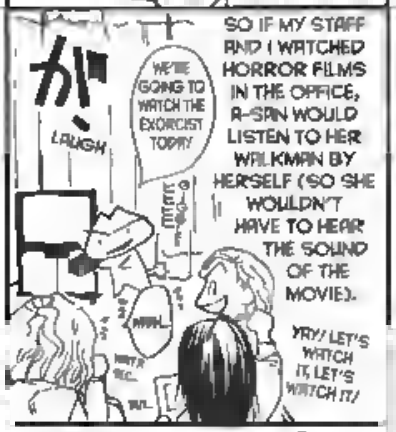

THE ONLY THING IS... SOMETIMES THE SMELL BECOMES EXTREMELY STRONG.
THE SMELL, HUH...


DO YOU STILL SMELL IT?
YES.
IT'S BEEN AROUND FOR SO LONG I GUESS WE'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT BUT...
WHEN STUDENTS VISIT FROM ANOTHER CLASS THEY ALWAYS ASK US ABOUT IT...

YASUHARA-SAN...
WHEN WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU REALIZED SOMETHING WAS UNUSUAL AT SCHOOL?
I GUESS THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED IT WAS WHEN STUDENTS REFUSED TO COME.
BUT BEFORE THAT, WEREN'T FIRES BREAKING OUT AT SCHOOL?
YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT THE SMALL FIRES IN THE DRESSING ROOM.
AT FIRST WE THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS PURPOSELY STARTING THEM.
IT HAPPENED EXACTLY EVERY TWELVE DAYS SO WE FIGURED SOMEBODY WAS DOING IT AS A PRANK.
EVERY TWELVE DAYS, HUH...?

INTERSTITIAL MANGA: SCARY JOB

OH, GOSH, PLEASE STOP!!
A-SAN, WHO HELPED ME UP TO VOLUME 3, GETS EASILY SCARED WHENEVER I TRY TO TELL HER SCARY STORIES...
THIS WAS HER ACTUAL REACTION.


SO IF MY STAFF AND I WATCHED HORROR FILMS IN THE OFFICE, A-SAN WOULD LISTEN TO HER WALKMAN BY HERSELF (SO SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO HEAR THE SOUND OF THE MOVIE).
か
LAUGH
WE'RE GOING TO WATCH THE EXORCIST TODAY!
WHIR...
WAIT A SEC.
WA...
YAY! LET'S WATCH IT, LET'S WATCH IT!

SOMEHOW ALL SHE COULD HEAR FROM HER HEADPHONE WAS OUR LAUGHS—
WHAT IS THIS/ THIS/
(LAUGHING SO HARD THAT THEY'RE CRYING)
PLEASE STOP...
LAUGH
UWA HA HA HA
GYA HA HA
HEE HEE

WE WATCHED EXORCIST 1 AND 3 REPEATEDLY...

IT HAPPENED AGAIN TWELVE DAYS LATER SO SEVERAL TEACHERS TOOK TURNS KEEPING A WATCH ON THE ROOM. BUT...
YES.
I BELIEVE IT HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER THE FIRST TIME.
THE THIRD FIRE, TWELVE DAYS LATER?

YES.
AT THAT POINT THEY DECIDED THAT NO ONE COULD USE THE DRESSING ROOM AND THEY LOCKED IT UP.
BUT ANOTHER FIRE TWELVE DAYS LATER?
THAT'S RIGHT.

DOES THE FIRE STILL CONTINUE TO BE SET TODAY?
RIGHT AROUND THAT TIME, SOME OF THE STUDENTS STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL
YES. EXACTLY TWELVE DAYS APART, AND IT HAPPENS EARLY IN THE MORNING...
AND THE SCHOOL THOUGHT THAT MAYBE SOMEONE WAS SETTING THE FIRE AS A PRANK...
THE NEXT FIRE SHOULD HAPPEN IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

THIS CASE MAY BE MORE COMPLICATED THAN ANTICIPATED...
NARU, PLEASE DON'T MAKE THAT SERIOUS FACE...
IT SEEMS...

AH, SURE.
MAY I INSPECT THE CLASSROOM NOW?
SKRCH

I'M GOING TO OPEN THE DOOR.

THIS IS IT.
3—1
SHOON

DO YOU SMELL IT?
!
STP
STP
IT ALSO SMELLS LIKE A FISH TANK FILLED WITH FROGS...
THERE AREN'T ANY AREAS OF THE ROOM THAT SMELL STRONGER THAN OTHERS...
HOW TO DESCRIBE IT...?
IT SMELLS LIKE THE FISH YOU LEFT SITTING IN THE KITCHEN SINK FOR THREE DAYS IN THE SUMMERTIME BY MISTAKE...
A PERFECT HARMONY OF THE SMELL OF SOMETHING THAT'S GONE BAD AND A DRAINAGE DITCH THAT'S STARTING TO DRY OUT.
BASICALLY, IT REEKS IN HERE.
AS I EXPECTED
EXACTLY. WE'VE LOOKED FOR THE SOURCE OF THE SMELL FOR A WHILE
BUT THE ENTIRE CLASSROOM SMELLS.

ARGH!
GASP ずは—?
GASP ずは
IT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IF YOU OPEN THE WINDOW.
STP カッ
STP STP カッ カッ
STICK YOUR HEAD OUT THE WINDOW AND BREATHE IN!
STP カッ
STP カッ
DID YOU DO ANYTHING ABNORMAL HERE?
SOMETHING ABNORMAL?
!
FOR EXAMPLE, SUMMONING A SPIRIT?

SUMMONING...
PERHAPS HE'S TALKING ABOUT ORIKIRI-SAMA?
SILLY! THAT'S DIFFERENT! BECAUSE THAT WAS...
ORIKIRI-SAMA...?

FILE 2

VARIOUS PSYCHIC PHENOMENA CONTINUED TO OCCUR AT RYOKURYOU HIGH SCHOOL...
A STUDENT COMMITTED SUICIDE...
AND THEN...
ORIKIRI-SAMA...?

* SEE TRANSLATION NOTES

OH, NO!
!
KRUMPLE
ORIKIRI-SAMA SUMMONS GOD AND IT CAN GUIDE US IN RELATIONSHIPS/
THAT'S NOT RIGHT/ DOESN'T KOKKURI-SAN SUMMON A FOX SPIRIT?
GONGEN-SAMA IS...
THESE ALL ARE SIMPLY DIFFERENT NAMES TO CALL KOKKURI-SAN/
HANAKO-SAN... CUPID-SAN... ANGEL-SAN...
GONGEN-SAMA...
I WAS TOLD THAT ORIKIRI-SAMA IS GOD, SO IT'S RISK-FREE...
THAT'S NOT TRUE/
THAT IS MISINFOR-MATION.
YOU'RE JUST PLAYING WITH THE SPIRIT OUT OF CURIOSITY.
WHATEVER THE NAME MAY BE, YOU'RE BASICALLY DOING THE SAME THING/
!
HUHH!?

EVEN AN AMATEUR CAN SUMMON A SPIRIT BUT YOU NEED TO BE TRAINED TO BE ABLE TO SEND THEM BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM.
GASP
DON'T EVER TRY THIS BY YOURSELF!
HOW POPULAR IS IT?
.....
WELL... IT'S DEFINITELY ALL OVER SCHOOL.
I'D BET THERE ARE MORE STUDENTS WHO PRACTICE IT THAN THOSE WHO DON'T.
STD
YOU SAID IT'S REALLY POPULAR...

I'M BACK.
CONFERENCE ROOM
KLATTER
HEY.
WELCOME BACK.
HOW WAS IT?
WHOOOSH
I CAME UP WITH THE SAME RESULTS.
JEEZ
HERE'S MY MEMO
IT'D BE FASTER TO COUNT THOSE WHO HAVEN'T DONE IT.
JUST AS THOSE GIRLS SAID, MOST OF THE STUDENTS HERE HAVE DONE KOKKURI-SAN.
GOSH
MOST OF THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN PRACTICING KOKKURI-SAN!? DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY EVIL SPIRITS MUST BE FLOATING AROUND HERE!?
MAN... GIVE ME A BREAK!
IT'S NO PROBLEM.
YASUHARA-SAN, WE'RE TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOU, AREN'T WE?
HOW MANY?
HERE YOU GO
WOW

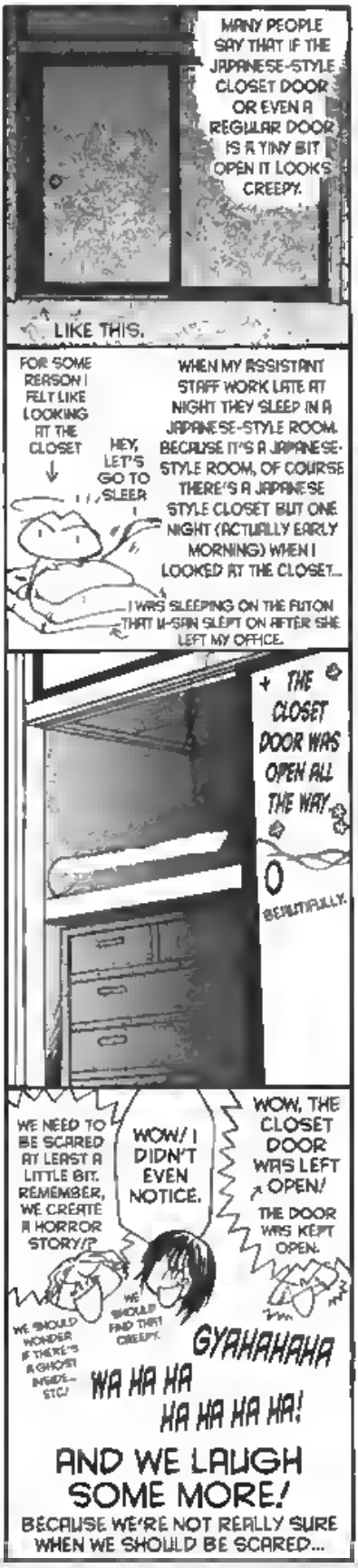
NARU-CHAN, ARE WE REALLY GOING TO DO THIS?
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA... KOKKURI-SAN CAN INVITE SOME OF THE WORST OF THE EVIL SPIRITS...
IT'S LIKE A TRAIN PACKED WITH EVIL SPIRITS
URGGH!
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
RIGHT! LET'S TRY THAT!
BRILLIANT IDEA!
EH...
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM SO YOU CAN DO IT!
THAT'S IT!
PLEASE HELP US OUT...
MMHM
.....
I APOLOGIZE FOR HIM.
MATSUYAMA TREATS EVERYONE POORLY.
HE WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY SO WE HAVE TO BE THE MATURE ONES AND BE PATIENT WITH HIM...
EVEN THE STUDENTS HAVE GIVEN UP ON HIM.
HUH.
!!!
WHAT...!?
ARE YOU MOTIVATED TO WORK ON THIS CASE AFTER SEEING MATSUYAMA'S ATTITUDE?
MONK-SAN...

I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
AH.
THEN MATSUYAMA MUST HAVE GIVEN YOU A HARD TIME, YASUHARA-KUN?
SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME TO CONSULT WITH US ON THIS WHOLE CASE.
YES, INDEED!
I'M OKAY.
IT'S BECAUSE I DO WELL IN SCHOOL.
HE'S SHINING!
YOU'RE A PRETTY COOL GUY, YA KNOW?
THANK YOU.
HOW MANY SCHOOLS
DO YOU THINK PRACTICE KOKKURI-SAN IN JAPAN?
AH...
ARE YOU ASKING US WHY ONLY MY SCHOOL HAS BECOME THIS WAY?

SPIRITS ARE NOT THINGS AN AMATEUR CAN EASILY SUMMON.
HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING, IF SOMEONE WERE ABLE TO SUMMON FLOATING SPIRITS BY KOKKURI-SAN...
I WOULD ASSUME THAT SOME OF THESE SPIRITS MAY BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO SOME HARM TO HUMANS.
AND I FIND IT UNUSUAL THAT THERE ARE SO MANY SPIRITS INHABITING ONE PLACE.
AH, I HAVE A BASIC QUESTION...
CAN YOU REALLY SUMMON SPIRITS BY KOKKURI-SAN?
THIS MANY OF THEM...
I KNOW...

WELL...
YES, IF YOU WERE A PSYCHIC...
BECAUSE I ALSO DID KOKKURI-SAN WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.
THE VERSION WHERE YOU PLACE YOUR FINGER ON A 10-YEN* COIN.
SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH THE COIN DID MOVE A LOT AND IT GAVE US A LOT OF CORRECT INFORMATION.
HOW DID IT DO THAT?
*$.10
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY, MASTER?
GRIN
AHH...
MAI, PLACE YOUR FINGER ON THE DESK
AS IF YOU'RE PRACTICING KOKKURI-SAN.
HUH?
LIKE THIS?

SCARY JOB PART 2


MANY PEOPLE SAY THAT IF THE JAPANESE-STYLE CLOSET DOOR OR EVEN A REGULAR DOOR IS A TINY BIT OPEN IT LOOKS CREEPY.
LIKE THIS.
FOR SOME REASON I FELT LIKE LOOKING AT THE CLOSET
HEY, LET'S GO TO SLEEP
WHEN MY ASSISTANT STAFF WORK LATE AT NIGHT THEY SLEEP IN A JAPANESE-STYLE ROOM. BECAUSE IT'S A JAPANESE-STYLE ROOM, OF COURSE THERE'S A JAPANESE STYLE CLOSET BUT ONE NIGHT (ACTUALLY EARLY MORNING) WHEN I LOOKED AT THE CLOSET...
I WAS SLEEPING ON THE FUTON THAT U-SAN SLEPT ON AFTER SHE LEFT MY OFFICE.
+ THE CLOSET DOOR WAS OPEN ALL THE WAY
O BEAUTIFULLY.
WE NEED TO BE SCARED AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT. REMEMBER, WE CREATE A HORROR STORY!?
WOW! I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.
WOW, THE CLOSET DOOR WAS LEFT OPEN!
THE DOOR WAS KEPT OPEN.
WE SHOULD WONDER IF THERE'S A GHOST INSIDE— ETC!
WE SHOULD FIND THAT CREEPY.
GYAHAHAHA
WA HA HA
HA HA HA HA!
AND WE LAUGH SOME MORE!
BECAUSE WE'RE NOT REALLY SURE WHEN WE SHOULD BE SCARED...

IF U-SAN WAS STILL AROUND IT WOULD'VE BEEN EVEN FUNNIER...

NONE OF YOU ARE INTENTIONALLY MOVING THE COIN SO IT APPEARS STRANGE THAT IT MOVES.
IMAGINE IF YOU ALSO HAD OTHER PEOPLE'S FINGERS ON THE SAME SPOT. THE SHAKING OF ALL YOUR FINGERS WOULD MOVE THE COIN.
THAT'S A NORMAL HUMAN BODY REACTION.
DO YOU GET IT NOW?
I SEE...
ほ!
.....

THAT EXPECTATION WILL MAKE PEOPLE MOVE THE COIN UNINTENTIONALLY.
THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD TRY PERFORMING KOKKURI-SAN THINK THAT IT WOULD BE ENTERTAINING IF KOKKURI-SAN PROVIDED CORRECT INFORMATION.
THEN...
HOW DOES KOKKURI-SAN GIVE OUT CORRECT INFORMATION?
ANNOYED !
I WON'T GIVE UP
UMM...
FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT'S IN MY POCKET!
SUCH AS?
BUT, BUT! I'VE SEEN KOKKURI-SAN GIVE INFORMATION THAT ONLY I KNOW.
FIRST ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS WILL START GUESSING THE ANSWER UNCONSCIOUSLY
SO THE NEXT REACTION WOULD BE TO THINK OF OBJECTS THAT START WITH THE LETTER "K"
"A KEY CHAIN?"
SUCH AS THE LETTER "K"
THEY'RE ALL THINKING ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS SO YOU MIGHT GET A LETTER THAT YOU DON'T EXPECT.

YOU'RE RIGHT..
.....
DUMMY, I COULD HEAR THE KEYS IN YOUR POCKET.
AH...
EVENTUALLY COMPLETING THE WORD "KEY CHAIN."
THEN THE COIN WILL MOVE ONTO THE LETTERS "E" AND "Y"...
CHINGL
IF YOU TEST IT YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN...
LET'S SAY, IF SOMEONE ASKS YOU 24 QUESTIONS AND YOU GET 3 OF THEM RIGHT... THEN PEOPLE TEND TO FEEL THAT YOU ACTUALLY GOT A LOT OF QUESTIONS ANSWERED CORRECTLY.
ONLY 3... OUT OF 24 QUESTIONS HUH...
HUH...
AFTER PERFORMING KOKKURI-SAN A FEW TIMES YOU PROBABLY WON'T ALWAYS GET THE RIGHT ANSWERS
WHEN YOU GET THE WRONG ANSWER YOU'LL JUST SAY, "OH WELL" AND MOVE ON.
BUT WHEN THE ANSWERS ARE RIGHT IT SEEMS STRANGE SO IT LEAVES A STRONGER IMPRESSION ON YOU.
.....

ACTUALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE IN IT.
WELL...
EH!?
IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN KOKKURI-SAN.
GOING BY WHAT YOU JUST SAID
DO YOU THINK YOU'D KNOW THE FUTURE OR BE ABLE TO READ PEOPLE'S MINDS?
IF MAI WERE TO BECOME A SPIRIT
MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT SPIRITS KNOW EVERYTHING BUT I WONDER IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE?
BASICALLY I THINK THE ONLY THINGS THAT SPIRITS KNOW BETTER THAN HUMANS
ARE ABOUT DEATH AND THE WORLD AFTER DEATH.
NOT AT ALL...
!
RIGHT.

11° 7 FLD
11° 7 FLD
THERE ARE SO MANY SPIRITS HERE THAT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START WITH THE EXORCISMS.
WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT...
I'D LOVE TO READ WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND ONE DAY...
I SEE...
THEN START PERFORMING THEM AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.
PROBABLY THE BEST THING FOR US TO DO IS TO WAIT UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HERE
WE'RE NOT STAYING AT A HOTEL!?

AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME I HAVE TO STAY IN THE JANITOR'S ROOM WITH A HEATER THAT DOESN'T WORK!!?
I TRAVELED THREE FREAKIN' HOURS FROM TOKYO FOR YOU!?
AYAKO... STOP YELLING...
FOR THREE FREAKIN' HOURS!!!
IMAGINE BEING LEFT ALONE WITH LIN IN A SMALL SPACE...
YOU MIGHT BE TOO INSENSITIVE TO UNDERSTAND IT...
BUT IT WAS SERIOUSLY TOUGH GETTING HERE...
EH?
IT TRULY WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE BATTLE...!!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOYS WILL HAVE TO SHARE A SIX-MAT ROOM* WITH FOUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING JOHN.
ARRRGH...
INCLUDING MASAKO, IT'S ONLY THREE OF US STAYING IN OUR ROOM.
BUT I'D SAY WE HAVE THE BETTER ROOM ARRANGEMENT...
OKAY, I GET IT...

*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES

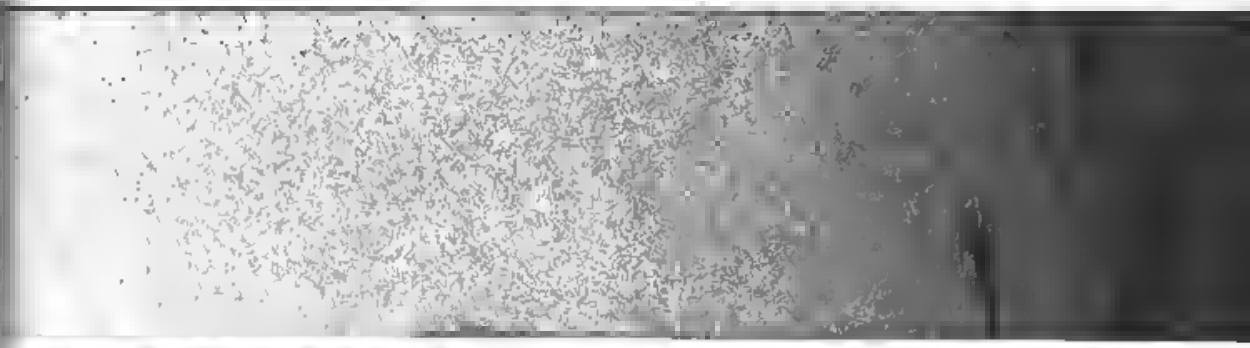
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EQUIPMENT TO MONITOR EVERY AREA WE NEED TO.
ANYWAY
RIGHT.
ONCE WE CONFIRM THEIR EXISTENCE, MONK-SAN, MATSUZAKI-SAN AND JOHN WILL START PERFORMING EXORCISMS.
TOMORROW I'LL HAVE HARA-SAN INSPECT THE SCHOOL AND CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF THE SPIRITS.
THINGS THAT ARE STILL UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT THEY ARE. LIN AND I WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE
LIKE WHAT?
BUT IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY.
MAI, YOU STAY AT THE BASE AND ORGANIZE ALL THE INFORMATION THAT WE'LL BE GIVING YOU.

OH NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
YOU EMBARRASSED ME
THEN TANIYAMA-SAN ALSO HAS SPECIAL PSYCHIC SKILLS?
WELL, IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT YOU FORGOT ABOUT IT.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
EH
WEREN'T YOU TOLD THE OTHER DAY THAT YOU COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE ESP?
YOU'RE THE WOMAN WITH THE SIXTH SENSE, RIGHT?
JEEZ.
MY BAD.
YOU GUYS GET ALONG VERY WELL
HA HA HA
WHY DON'T *YOU* TRY TO BE USEFUL FOR ONCE?
♡
AFTER ALL, IT WAS PURELY COINCIDENTAL THAT YOU WERE USEFUL AT OUR LAST CASE.
DON'T WORRY, I BROUGHT A SLEEPING BAG WITH ME.
5 MEN IN A 6-MAT ROOM...
HOLY COW...
THIS IS LIKE A FIELD TRIP FOR SCHOOL ATHLETES...
I BROUGHT STUFF WITH ME SO I COULD SPEND THE NIGHT JUST IN CASE.
I'M FINE. I THOUGHT I COULD HELP YOU WITH SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.
BY THE WAY YASUHARA-SAN, DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO HOME?
AH

YASUHARA-SAN,
I APPRECIATE YOU OFFERING TO STAY TO HELP US BUT I DON'T RECOMMEND YOU SPENDING THE NIGHT. I'D RATHER NOT PUT YOU IN DANGER.
OF COURSE, IF YOU THINK I'LL BE IN YOUR WAY, LET ME KNOW.
I'LL BE HAPPY TO LEAVE.
THEN...
I CAN USE SOME HELP

DAZED
.....
OKAY.
I THINK WE'RE READY.
HUH...
WITH THIS EQUIPMENT WE CAN DETECT ANY STRANGE NOISES.
HE'S THE EQUIPMENT HANDLER
SO THIS IS THE KIND OF EQUIPMENT PSYCHICS USE NOW, HUH?
HA HA HA
I THINK WE'RE UNIQUE...
BESIDES, NARU IS NOT A PSYCHIC.
AH I'VE HEARD OF THAT
HE REFERS TO HIMSELF AS A "GHOST HUNTER"

REALLY? PEOPLE USUALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.
YEAH...
SAKAUCHI,... THE FRESHMAN WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE...
AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS FRESHMAN YEAR WHEN HE WAS ASKED WHAT HIS FUTURE PLANS WERE, HE WROTE "GHOST HUNTER."
BUT HE MAY HAVE JUST BEEN JUST KIDDING.
THAT'S WHY I'D HEARD OF IT
I SEE...
HE WAS INTERESTED IN THESE THINGS...
A STUDENT WHO WANTED TO BECOME A GHOST HUNTER...
I WONDER WHAT HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF US
IF HE HAD EVER MET US...

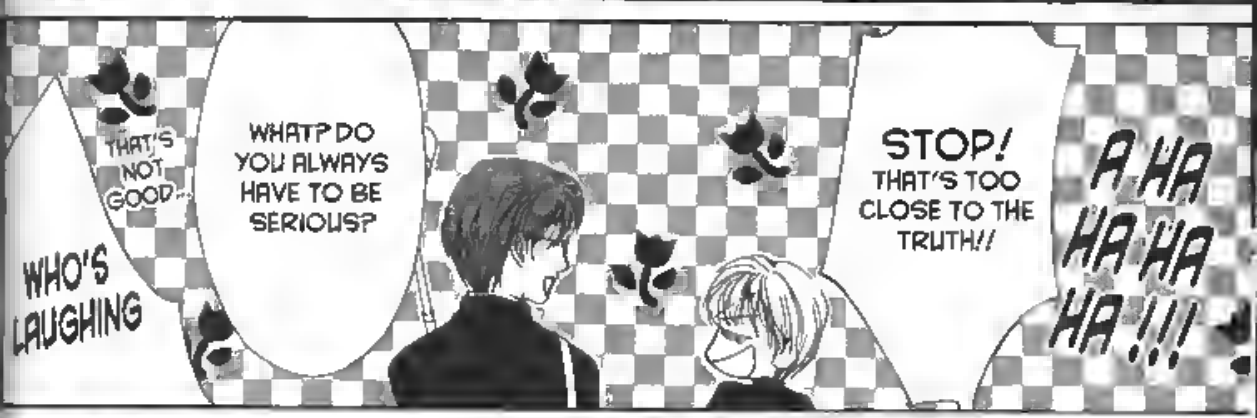


AH...
NOTHING...
JUST NOW...

WHAT?

SO/
WHAT DO WE DO NEXT, CHIEF/?
HUH..
WASN'T THERE SOMEONE JUST LOOKING AT US...?
EH
LET'S SEE...
THE GYMNASIUM WHERE YOU HEAR A CAT'S VOICE...
THEN LET'S DO IT AND GET IT OVER WITH.
BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME "CHIEF"?
BECAUSE IN THIS SITUATION I FEEL LIKE I'M YOUR AP-PRENTICE.
AREN'T YOU COMFORT-ABLE WITH "CHIEF"? THEN HOW ABOUT "(MAFIA) BOSS"
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT/
AH, BUT THEN IN THAT CASE SHIBUYA-SAN WOULD BE...
A SCHOOL AT NIGHT'S A SPOOKY PLACE, YOU KNOW?
ガラ
I'M SUCH A CHICKEN WHEN IT COMES TO SCARY THINGS.
YOU'RE RIGHT...

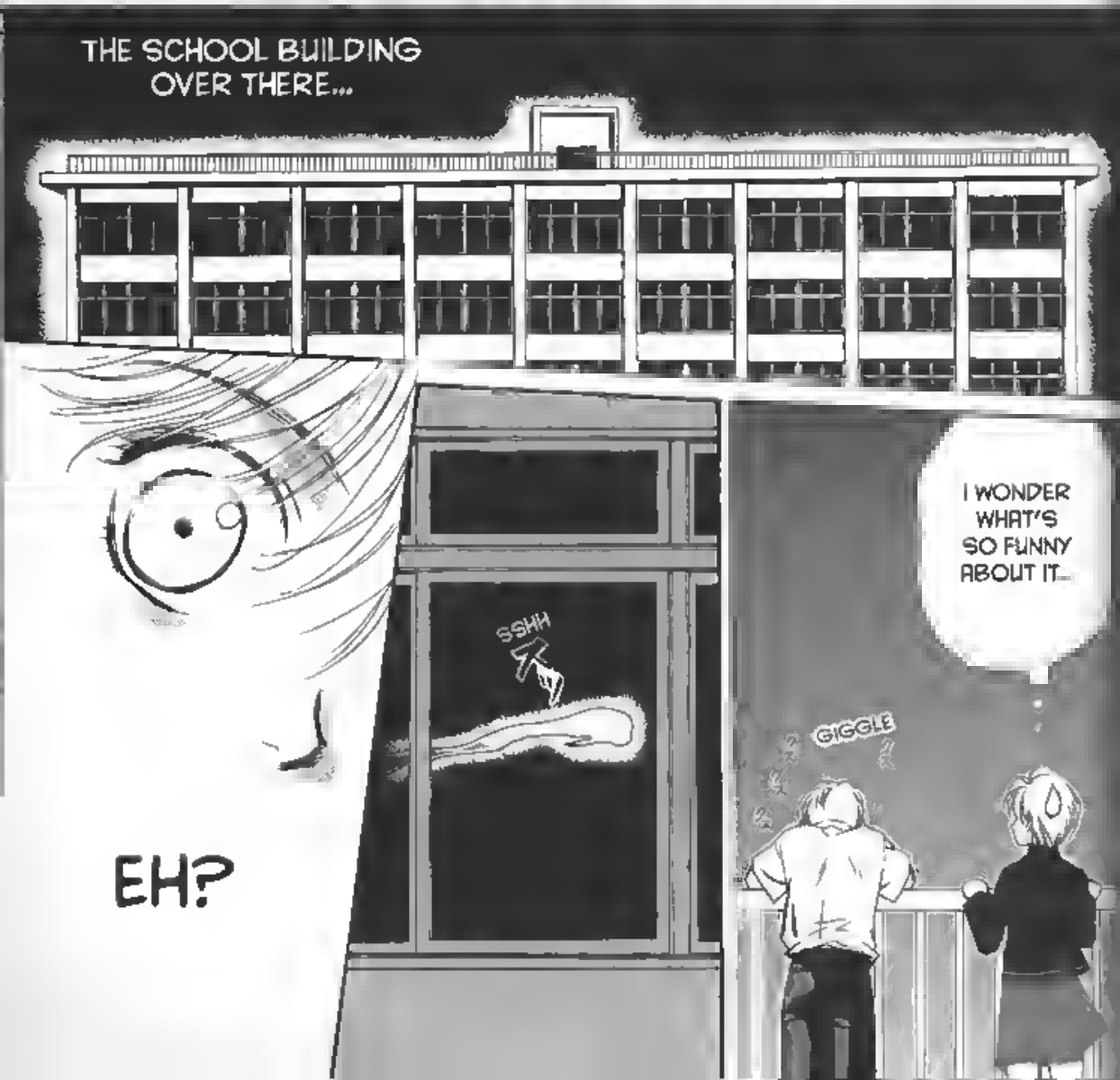
TA
DAH
THE BIG BAD BOSS.


THAT'S NOT GOOD...
WHO'S LAUGHING
WHAT? DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SERIOUS?
STOP! THAT'S TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!!
A HA HA HA HA!!!

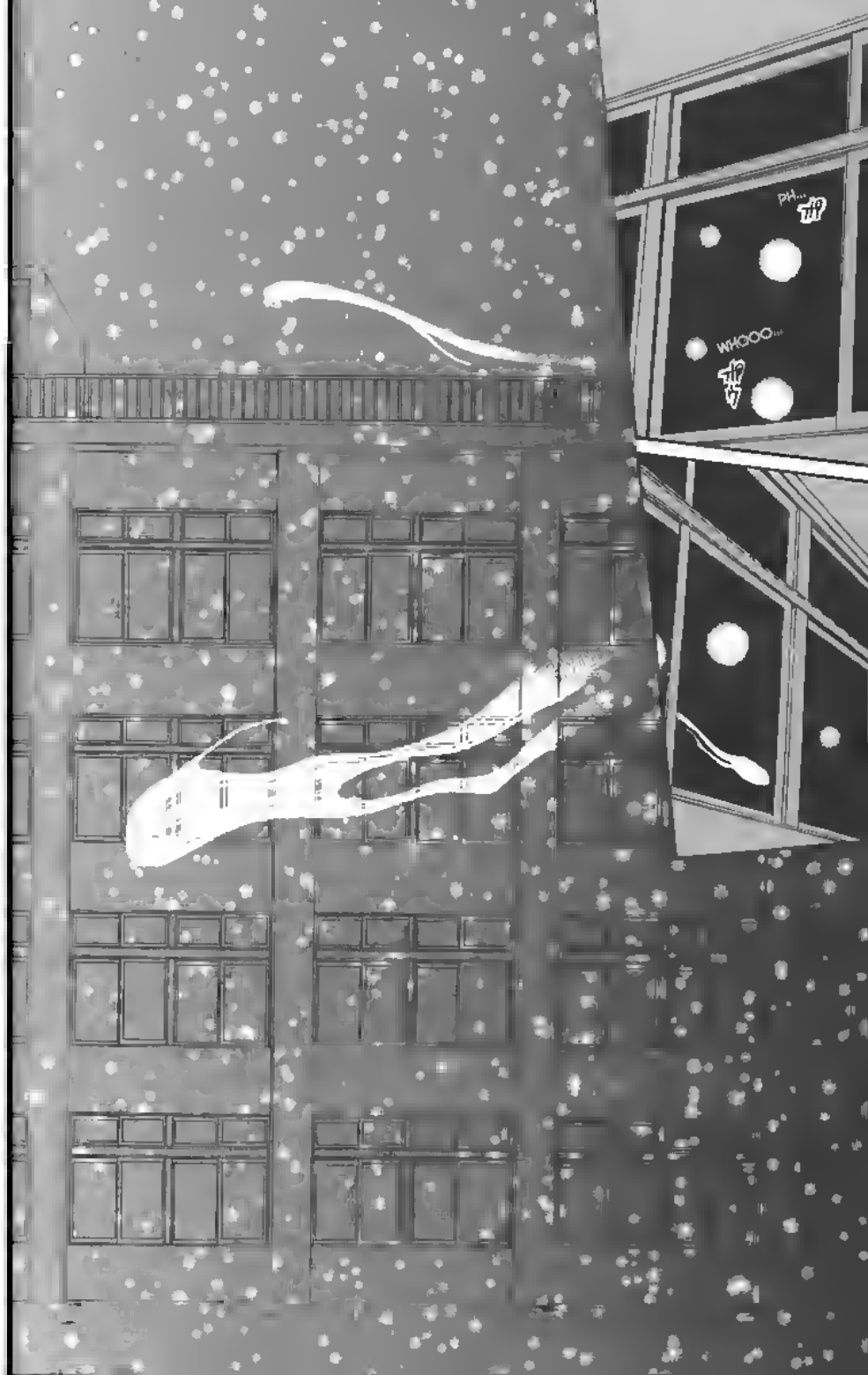
I DON'T REALLY CARE AT THIS POINT.
THEN BEFORE OUR BIG (MAFIA) BOSS GETS MAD AT US, LET'S FINISH THIS UP.
RIGHT.

WASN'T I SETTING UP THE EQUIPMENT WITH YASUHARA-SAN...
OOPS...
WHERE AM I?
UH...?
ALL THE STUDENTS SHOULD'VE GONE HOME BY NOW...

GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE


THE SCHOOL BUILDING OVER THERE...
SSHH
I WONDER WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT IT...
GIGGLE
EH?

GIGGLE
WILL-O'-THE-WISPS...!?
HEY...
HEY? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THOSE THINGS ARE?
OF COURSE I DO.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE FUNNY.
FUNNY...
GASP


PH...
WHOOO...

PH...
WHOOO...

GIGGLE
WILL-O'-THE-WISPS...!?
HEY...
HEY? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THOSE THINGS ARE?
FUNNY...
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE FUNNY.
OF COURSE I DO
GASP

THEY ARE VERY FUNNY.
I THINK NOTHING COULD BE FUNNIER...
THIS STUDENT...

WHO IS HE...
THE STUDENT WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE...?
AH...
ARE YOU...
PERHAPS...

GHOST HUNT

— A FORBIDDEN GAME —

FILE 3

I DO FEEL THEIR PRESENCE.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T SEE ANY SPIRITS AT ALL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MASAKO-CHAN.
YOU DON'T SEE ANY SPIRITS HERE!?
SIGH
WE'RE IN TROUBLE...
SO THAT MEANS...
BUT MASAKO IS THE ONLY ONE OF US WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE SPIRITS, RIGHT?

AH... WELL...
IGNORING
MAYBE SHE'S NOT AT HER BEST RIGHT NOW?
BUT CAN YOU FEEL IF THEY EXIST HERE?
YES.
I KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY SPIRITS AND I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TYPES OF SPIRITS ARE HERE.
USUALLY I CAN SEE SPIRITS MORE CLEARLY BUT...
IT'S A SIMILAR FEELING TO WHEN YOU'RE WATCHING TV WITH BAD RECEPTION...
IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

I'M BETTER WITH SPIRITS THAT HAVE STRONG GRUDGES TO SPECIFIC LOCATIONS OR PEOPLE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT COMMUNICATING WITH SPIRITS THAT FLOAT AROUND.
GASP
AH... JEEZ...
WOW...
YOU'RE LETTING US DOWN AGAIN, MASAKO.
WELL, SINCE THESE SPIRITS WERE SUMMONED BY KOKKURI-SAN, THEY MAY NOT HOLD ANY PARTICULAR GRUDGES.
OH, NO, YOU DIDN'T...
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME THAT, MATSUZAKI-SAN!
AND IN THIS CASE IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T SEE OR FEEL ANY SPIRITS!
LAST TIME WAS A SPECIAL CASE!
YEAH, UH-HUH
BUT WE STILL CAN'T DEPEND ON YOU REGARD-LESS, RIGHT?
YAWN
THERE THEY GO AGAIN...
ARGH!
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO PUSH MY BUTTONS, DON'T YOU!?
WHY DON'T YOU GROW UP, QUEENIE?

EH? OH NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
YOU DIDN'T SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?
WELL...
IT IS TRUE THAT I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BECAUSE OF THAT DREAM...
THAT STUDENT...
BUT...
HE WAS REALLY...
WHAT TYPE OF SPIRIT IS THAT?
SPIRIT THAT I FEEL VERY STRONGLY.
THERE'S ONLY ONE...
THAT...
YES. I CAN SEE HIS SPIRIT CLEARLY.
THAT MEANS HE'S ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.
THE SPIRIT OF A BOY.
HE'S ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS ME.

I FEEL STRONG FEELINGS FROM HIS SPIRIT.
HE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED HARDSHIPS AT SCHOOL.
HIS SPIRIT IS TRAPPED HERE.
EVEN THOUGH HIS SPIRIT IS NOT RIGHT HERE, I FEEL IT VERY STRONGLY.
THAT IS...
I THINK HE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
AND I BELIEVE IT WAS FAIRLY RECENTLY.
MAYBE IT IS...

YES. THAT'S HIM.
RIGHT.
THIS STUDENT?
IS IT...
HIS NAME IS SAKAUCHI-SAN.
TOMOAKI SAKAUCHI-KUN WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE.
THAT WAS...
SAKAUCHI-KUN...
THAT REALLY WAS...
POOM

LIN...
HAVE WE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM LAST NIGHT?
I WONDER IF HE REALLY HELD A GRUDGE AGAINST THIS SCHOOL?
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ON THE VIDEO BUT SOME NOISES WERE RECORDED IN THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS TOO...
THIRD GRADE CLASS #1, SECOND GRADE CLASS #4, AND A LANGUAGE LAB ROOM.
SEVERAL ROOMS HAD UNUSUAL TEMPERATURES ...
?
AH... NORMALLY SPIRITS WILL HIDE WHEN OUTSIDERS COME INTO THEIR TERRITORY.
APPARENTLY THEY'RE SHY.
I SEE... THE SPIRITS ARE ALREADY SHOWING SOME REACTIONS ON THE FIRST DAY.
THE ART PREP ROOM, THE SECOND GRADE CLASS #4 AND THE STOREROOM FOR THE GYM.
TAP TAP
YTYT

SPIRITS THAT REACT IN THE EARLY STAGES OF RESEARCH ARE USUALLY THE INTENSE ONES.
INTENSE?
HARA-SAN, PLEASE WALK AROUND THE BUILDING AND LOCATE THE SPIRITS.
MATSUZAKI-SAN, ACCOMPANY HARA-SAN AND PERFORM EXORCISMS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
LET'S GET TO WORK.
MAI WILL STAY AT THE BASE SO PLEASE KEEP HER INFORMED WITH WHAT'S GOING ON.
GOTCHA.
I RECOMMEND NOT UNDER-ESTIMATING THESE SPIRITS. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

YASUHARA-SAN, WOULD YOU MIND HELPING US WITH THAT?
LIN AND I WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE LOCATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUAL.
NOT AT ALL.
WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED THAT, PLEASE GO TO THE PLACES THAT HARA-SAN WILL FIND.
MONK-SAN AND JOHN-SAN, PLEASE PERFORM EXORCISMS AT THE FIVE LOCATIONS LIN JUST MENTIONED.
NO PROBLEM.
SURE.
MAI.
YES?
DON'T FALL ASLEEP
OKAY, LET'S GO.
DISAPPOINTED
I WON'T.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO GET SLEEPY WHEN YOU'RE LEFT ALONE LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
MMMM...
BUT YOU KNOW...
カッチ TIK
カッチ TIK
カッチ TIK
YAWN
くあ〜
WOBBLE ゆら
GASP
SLEEPY... うと
C'MON! ええい!
ばちん! SLAP!
WAKE UP!
SLAPPED MYSELF TOO HARD...
OUCH...

HUH!?
WHY AM I IN THE HALLWAY!?
MAI...

!

THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS.
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE BASE.
EH?
NARU! YOU'RE BACK? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
EH...
HUH!?
LOOK.
THERE ARE MANY SPIRITS FLOATING AROUND...
SSSSH
!

IS THE SAME AS THE DREAM I HAD LAST NIGHT...
THIS...

AYAKO AND
THAT MUST BE...
A LOCKER ROOM... I GUESS.
PATHUMP
THAT IS...
SHRRR
SSHWAA

THAT'S A BROADCAST STUDIO.
WATCH.
THAT IS...

IT GOT BIGGER...?
WHAT AN UNPLEASANT OCCURRENCE...
SPIRITS CONSUMING EACH OTHER AND GROWING BIGGER...
AND THEN....
OOONN
オオ！

THOSE ARE EVIL SPIRITS.
THEY'RE TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO HANDLE. YOU SHOULD GO.
NO WAY...
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU GUYS HERE!
I SUGGEST YOU HAVE SOMEONE TEACH YOU HOW TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM.
THEN..
ALSO, DON'T GO NEAR THE WILL-O'-THE-WISPS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
OKAY.
UNDERSTAND.
OOORAN

WHAT DO YOU "UNDER-STAND"?
HN
ぽちっ☆
I'LL LET SHIBUYA-SAN KNOW IF YOU ARE GOING TO CONTINUE SLACKING OFF...
がたっ
SKRCH
HAAH!?
OH... I CAN DO THAT MYSELF!
DON'T WORRY, I'M YOUR APPRENTICE I'LL DO IT.
I'LL MAKE YOU SOME COFFEE.
YES, I FINISHED WHAT THEY ASKED ME TO DO.
HA... HAVE YOU ALREADY FINISHED THE PROJECT THAT YOU WERE WORKING ON?
HA HA HA HA HA
DARN

BY THE WAY...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT KOKKURI-SAN AT THIS SCHOOL IS UNUSUAL?
UMMM... ORIKIRI-SAMA, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
APPARENTLY THERE ARE MANY RULES TO IT.
LIKE, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO USE THE SAME PAPER TWICE, AND IF YOU DO YOU HAVE TO DISPOSE OF IT AT A SHRINE.
OGRE
NO
YES
YOU ALSO HAVE TO CHANT DURING THE SESSION.
CHANT?
LET'S SEE...
I THINK IT GOES LIKE "O-ORIKITTE" OR SOME-THING...
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
BY THE WAY, IT'S INTEREST-ING HOW POPULAR IT IS HERE, IT'S SCHOOL-WIDE.
UMM...
LIFE WOULD BE A LOT LESS COMPLICATED IF ONE WERE ABLE TO UNDER-STAND WHAT MAKES THINGS POPULAR.
I WONDER WHY THAT'S SO?
JUST KIDDING.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE PREPARATION AND THE PAPER THAT YOU USE ARE UNIQUE... AND THE CHANT-ING IS ALSO DIFFERENT...
YOU KNOW HOW EVERYONE ALWAYS WANTS NEW THINGS...
HUH...

YASUHARA-SAN... YOU'RE A VERY CALM PERSON.
HA HA HA
PEOPLE TELL ME THAT I ACT MATURE FOR MY AGE.
THEY CALL ME "OLD MAN."
THEY SAY I HAVE THE SMILE OF A KIND OLD MAN BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT I'M COOKING UP BEHIND THAT NICE SMILE.
ABSOLUTELY
TIK
TIK
TIK
IT'S TODAY, ISN'T IT?
EH?
IT'S THE TWELFTH DAY.
THERE'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER FIRE IN THE LOCKER ROOM.
IT MAY NOT HAPPEN
IN THE LOCKER ROOM THIS TIME...
HUH?

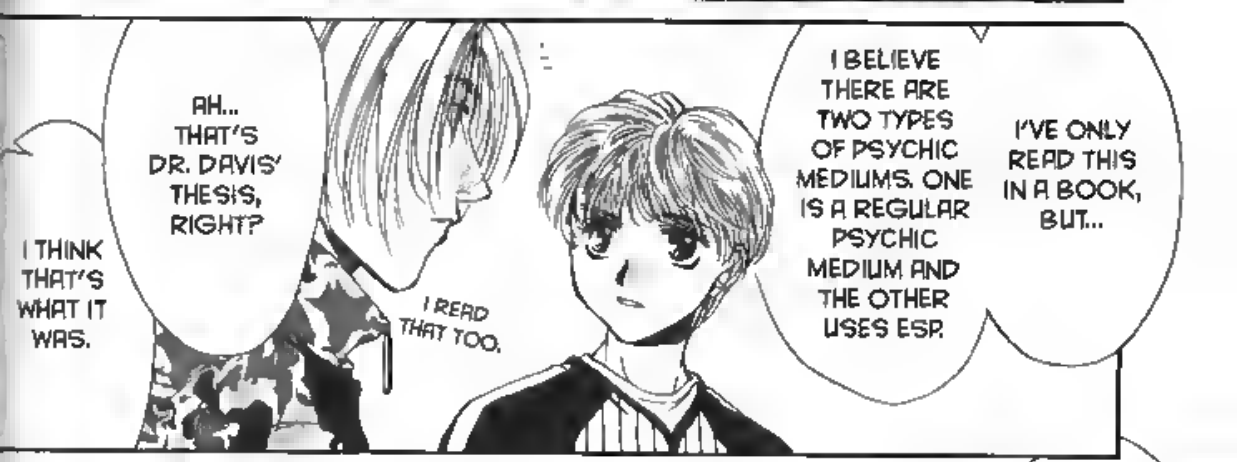
AH...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW FOR SURE BUT I WAS JUST WONDERING IF PERHAPS THIS TIME IT MAY HAPPEN AT ANOTHER LOCATION...
SHHHK
HI
OH...
LIKE IN THE STUDIO...
I SEE, YOU'RE ALL ALONE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND, HUH?
IT'S GOOD TO BE YOUNG.
がくっ
DISAPPOINTED
OH, STOP TEASING US, TAKIGAWA-SAN.
DON'T BE SHY, DON'T BE SHY!
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING SERIOUS!
AH! JOHN, ARE YOU OKAY!?
YES...
WHACK
PLEASE BE MORE CONSIDERATE, WE WERE ABOUT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME...

YOU KNOW, THIS TYPE OF THING NEEDS THE APPROPRIATE MOOD AND...
OH, I GET IT I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND NEXT TIME.
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE AND WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU.
OKAY, SON...
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE TALK...
HUH...
BLUNTLY
YES, I DO.
BY ANY CHANCE DO YOU LIKE MAI?
YOU SAID NEXT TIME.
!!??
BUT I ALSO LIKE SHIBUYA-SAN. HE'S BEAUTIFUL...
WHAAAAT!?
CARESS
I LIKE YOU EVEN MORE...
BUT...

OF COURSE I AM ♡
YOU'RE TEASING ME, AREN'T YOU...?
YES?
YOUNG MAN...
PLEASE DON'T ASK ME ABOUT THAT...
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA
SO HOW'S THE RESEARCH GOING?
YOU TRIED TO PLAY WITH ME FIRST.
EXHAUSTED
LOST THE GAME
DON'T PLAY WITH AN OLD MAN'S MIND...
HUH?
WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AHHH...
I JUST THOUGHT I COULD TRY TO BE A LITTLE MORE USEFUL...
DO YOU THINK I COULD PERFORM AN EXORCISM?
HEY, MONK-SAN.
WE'VE BEEN PERFORMING EXORCISMS BASED ON HARA-SAN'S GUIDANCE BUT IT HASN'T BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE.
AHH...
IT'S NOT GOING WELL?
I SEE...
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?
SIGH
KREEK
IT'LL BE OVER FOR US THE DAY WE HAVE TO RESORT TO YOU PERFORMING AN EXORCISM.

THIS IS THE SYMBOL OF FUDO MYOO.*
STRAIGHTEN YOUR BACK, KEEPING THAT HAND POSITION, AND SAY, "NAU MAKU SAN MANDA BAZARA DANKAN".
LIKE... THIS?
PUT YOUR FINGERS TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
HUH?
SHA
* SEE TRANSLATION NOTES
THEN YOU MAKE THIS SYMBOL WITH YOUR FINGERS AND SHOUT IT.
IF THE SPIRITS HAVEN'T DISAPPEARED AFTER DOING THIS...
THIS LOOKS LIKE "KAN-CHOU!"...
LIKE THIS?
LIKE THIS?
I'LL WRITE IT DOWN FOR YOU
HUH?
"NAU MAKU SAN MANDA BAZARA DANKAN," THIS IS WHAT'S CALLED "CHANTING."
* SEE TRANSLATION NOTES
SO ANYWAY, IF MASAKO CAN'T HELP US WE'RE REALLY GOING TO BE IN TROUBLE.
SHE INSISTS THAT EVEN THOUGH SHE CAN'T SEE THE SPIRITS SHE CAN TELL WHERE THEY ARE, BUT I WONDER IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE?
HERE YOU GO.
NAU MAKU SAN... SANDMAN... OH, NO THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT TO SAY... MY TIREDNESS CAME OUT BY ACCIDENT...
OH, THANKS.
THANKS

KUCHIYOSE MEANS ANSWERING QUESTIONS IN THE VOICE OF THE DEAD BY HAVING SPIRITS CHANNEL THROUGH ONE'S BODY.
KUCHIYOSE?
MASAKO IS GOOD AT KUCHIYOSE.
UM...
BUT NARU TOLD US THAT SHE'S THE BEST PSYCHIC MEDIUM IN JAPAN.
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS KOKKURI-SAN, HUH?


I THINK THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
AH... THAT'S DR. DAVIS' THESIS, RIGHT?
I READ THAT TOO.
I BELIEVE THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PSYCHIC MEDIUMS. ONE IS A REGULAR PSYCHIC MEDIUM AND THE OTHER USES ESP.
I'VE ONLY READ THIS IN A BOOK, BUT...

PSYCHOMETRIST. SOMEONE WHO HAS PSYCHOMETRY.
PSYCHOMETRY IS THE PSYCHIC ABILITY TO READ BOTH THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.
PSY... WHAT?
ACCORDING TO DR. DAVIS A PSYCHIC MEDIUM CAN BE SOMEONE WHO HAS ESP,
TELEPATHY, OR POSSIBLY A PSYCHOMETRIST.

BY THE WAY, THIS STORY WILL BE CONTINUED INTO THE NEXT VOLUME!

SO WE ADDED A SIDE STORY FOR YOU AFTER PART 1 OF THE MAIN STORY (FORBIDDEN GAME). ONO-SENSEI SPECIALLY CAME UP WITH THIS SIDE STORY. THANK YOU, SENSEI. ♪

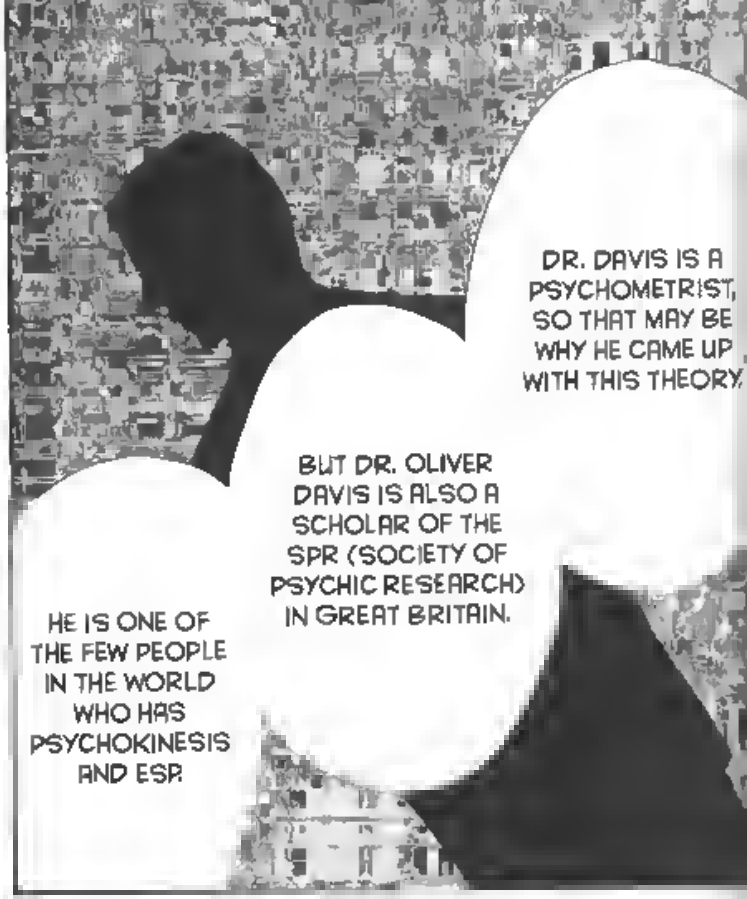
OUR GOAL WAS TO MAKE SIDE CHARACTERS THAT NORMALLY DON'T GET TO STAND OUT VERY MUCH, STAND OUT. SO WE SELECTED "THAT CHARACTER" BUT MONK-SAN ENDED UP STEALING HIS SPOTLIGHT. OH HOW PITIFUL! (SOB)

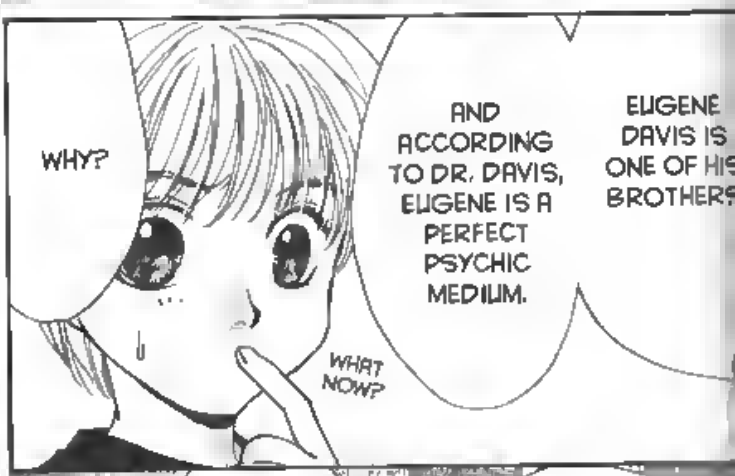
WELL THEN, I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 5!♥

STUDIES HARD.

STAFF

A. SAKAMOTO / T. WATANABE / Y. UCHIDA / Y. NEGISHI and R. ONO / ink. I. ZUSHI


DR. DAVIS IS A PSYCHOMETRIST, SO THAT MAY BE WHY HE CAME UP WITH THIS THEORY.
BUT DR. OLIVER DAVIS IS ALSO A SCHOLAR OF THE SPR (SOCIETY OF PSYCHIC RESEARCH) IN GREAT BRITAIN.
HE IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO HAS PSYCHOKINESIS AND ESP.



THIS RARELY HAPPENS.
AND IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED UNLESS THE SPIRIT WAS REALLY CHANNELING THROUGH HIM.
IF A GERMAN SPIRIT WERE CHANNELING THROUGH EUGENE, HE WOULD SPEAK IN GERMAN, AND IF THE SPIRIT WERE GREEK, HE'D SPEAK IN GREEK.
WELL I

ACCORDING TO DR. DAVIS, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY BE SOMEONE WITH ESP INSTEAD OF A PSYCHIC MEDIUM.
SOME PSYCHICS ARE BETTER AT FORETELLING AND GUESSING THAN OTHERS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, ON THOSE SPECIAL PSYCHIC PROGRAMS ON TV IN JAPAN, EVEN WHEN THE SPIRITS THE PSYCHIC MEDIUM SUMMONS ARE FOREIGNERS, THEY SPEAK IN JAPANESE.
THOSE ARE TOO FUNNY TO WATCH.
MASAKO'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT FORE-TELLING AND GUESSING...
SO SHE MAY BE MORE OF A PSYCHOMETRIST THAN A PSYCHIC MEDIUM, HUH?
SHE MAY BE USING HER PSYCHOMETRIC ABILITY THROUGH THE SCHOOL, RATHER THAN SEEING SPIRITS.
ふ～ん
HMMM....

GASP!?
YOU KNOW
LET'S LEAV
THE THINKIN
TO NARU
BY THE WAY, MAI, DO YOU FEEL ANYTHING?
HEY, WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY...
AH, TANIYAMA-SAN, REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME?
THE NEXT FIRE MAY BE IN THE RADIO STUDIO.
IS THAT TRUE!?
UH...
WELL... I FELL ASLEEP EARLIER AND HAD A DREAM ABOUT THAT...
AND WHAT ELSE!?
AND THAT'S ALL...
IT MUST JUST BE A DREAM.
PHEW
I SEE...
OKAY, MAI! YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, NOW GO TO SLEEP
HERE'S YOUR PILLOW!
BUCKWHEAT CHAFF

HARA-SAN AND MATSUZAKI-SAN ARE REALLY THE ONES WHO WENT TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM IN THE LOCKER ROOM!
HUH!? JOHN'S EVEN TRYING TO CONVINCE ME!
MONK-SAN, WHAT!?
IT MUST BE A COINCIDENCE!
GO TO SLEEP! YOU NEED TO COLLECT MORE INFORMATION!
YOUR DREAM MUST HAVE MEAN SOME-THING!
IF THE FIRE REALLY HAPPENS IN THE STUDIO, BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THEM.
AND TANIYAMA-SAN...
UMMM...
I CAN'T JUST FALL SLEEP ALL OF A SUDDEN!
I'LL EVEN SING YOU A LULLABY
FOOMPH
YOU'VE HAD DREAMS RELATING TO OUR RESEARCH DURING THE LAST CASE AND THE ONE BEFORE.
WELL...
WE'LL FIND OUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER LATER ON TONIGHT.
IF THE FIRE DOES HAPPEN IN THE STUDIO, THEN IT WOULD MEAN THAT TANIYAMA-SAN'S DREAM WAS RIGHT, WOULDN'T IT?
SINCE RIGHT NOW!
I'LL CONTINUE TO MANAGE OUR TEAM
HEY, SON... WHEN DID YOU BE-COME MAI'S MANAGER?
I'M PROUD OF YOU...

THEY CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT...
YOU'VE BEEN HIDING YOUR CLAWS ALL THIS TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
YES, THE CAT HAS KEPT ME WARM*
*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES
BUT JUST BECAUSE MY DREAM HAPPENED TO BE RIGHT THE LAST TIME IT DOESN'T MEAN IT'LL BE RIGHT AGAIN.
HOW-EVER...
LATER THAT EVENING...
TO BE EXACT, THE NEXT MORNING, AT 4:32AM...
IT REALLY HAPPENED...
– CONTINUED IN VOL 5 –

SIDE STORY

GHOST HUNT 4

— SILENT CHRISTMAS —

ARE YOU READY?

READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!

I'M OVER HERE

HEY, PLEASE HURRY

HURRY UP AND FIND ME...

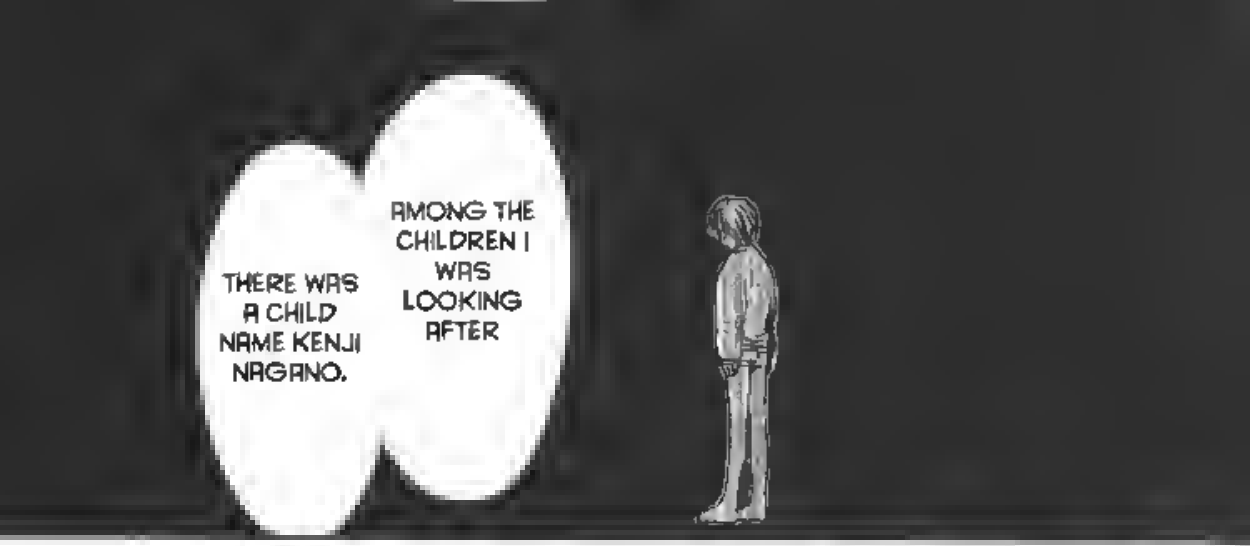
WOW!
IT'S A REAL CHURCH.
MAI, DON'T RUN, YOU'LL FALL.
BAM
YAY! YAY!
HOW CUTE!
HUH? ME?
SILLY! I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT YOU!
I MEANT THE CHURCH, THE CHURCH!
OOPH!
HEY JOHN, DID YOU SEE THAT!? SHE JUST KICKED ME!
TELL HER TO CALM DOWN!
AHH
A CHURCH DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! THIS IS NICE.
THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT.
UH-HUH.
MAI!

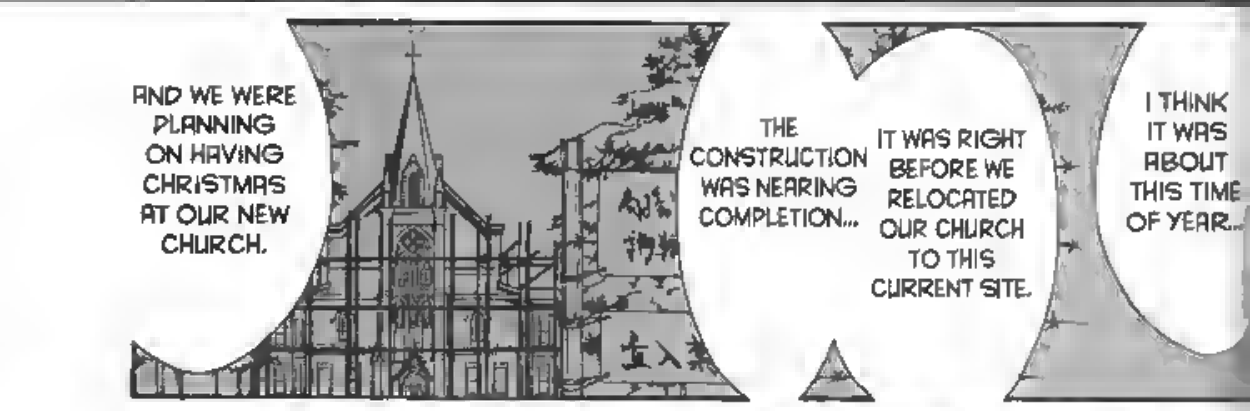
GYAHHH
GYAHHH
OPTIONAL
THEY'RE IN BLACK, TOO
I AGREE...
NARU AND LIN-SAN HAVE QUITE A DIFFERENT TASTE IN FASHION FROM OURS...
HEY, ALTHOUGH WE ALL CAME TO THE CHURCH TOGETHER,
RIGHT!
THIS IS A JOB! I'M FULLY AWARE OF THAT, BOSS!
IF YOU CAME OUT HERE TO PLAY, THEN LEAVE NOW
BROWN-KUN!
THANK YOU FOR COMING
FATHER, THIS IS SHIBUYA-SAN, THE PRESIDENT OF SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH.
SHIBUYA-SAN, THIS IS OUR CLIENT, FATHER TOUJO.
I'M GLAD YOU CAME.
TOUJO-SAN.
HUH...
PLEASE, COME IN.
YAY, THIS WILL BE MY FIRST TIME VISITING A CHURCH ♡

KYAAA
A HA HA HA HA!
UMM...
WHY IS THERE A SKULL THERE?
THIS IS SOMEWHAT PSYCHEDELIC, DON'T YA THINK.
TOUJO-SAN WATCHES THE CHILDREN OF FOREIGN WORKERS.
OH
...
INDEED
THERE SEEM TO BE CHILDREN HERE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...
HE ALSO TAKES IN ORPHANED CHILDREN AND GIVES THEM A HOME.
HE LOOKS AFTER THEM WHILE THEIR PARENTS ARE WORKING.

I SEE...
AND AGAIN THIS MORNING, ONE OF MY CHILDREN WAS ACTING PECULIAR, SO I CONTACTED BROWN-KUN AND HE SUGGESTED THAT I SPEAK TO YOU.
THERE HAVE BEEN STRANGE INCIDENTS A THIS CHURC
STRANGE INCIDENTS?
WELL... I MEAN...
YOU SAW THE CHILDREN PLAYING OUTSIDE, DIDN'T YOU?
SOMETIMES SPIRITS POSSESS SOME OF THESE CHILDREN...
WHAT!?
I TRIED PERFORMING AN EXORCISM ON THEM BUT...
THE SPIRIT JUST LEAVES ONE BODY THEN POSSESSES ANOTHER RIGHT?

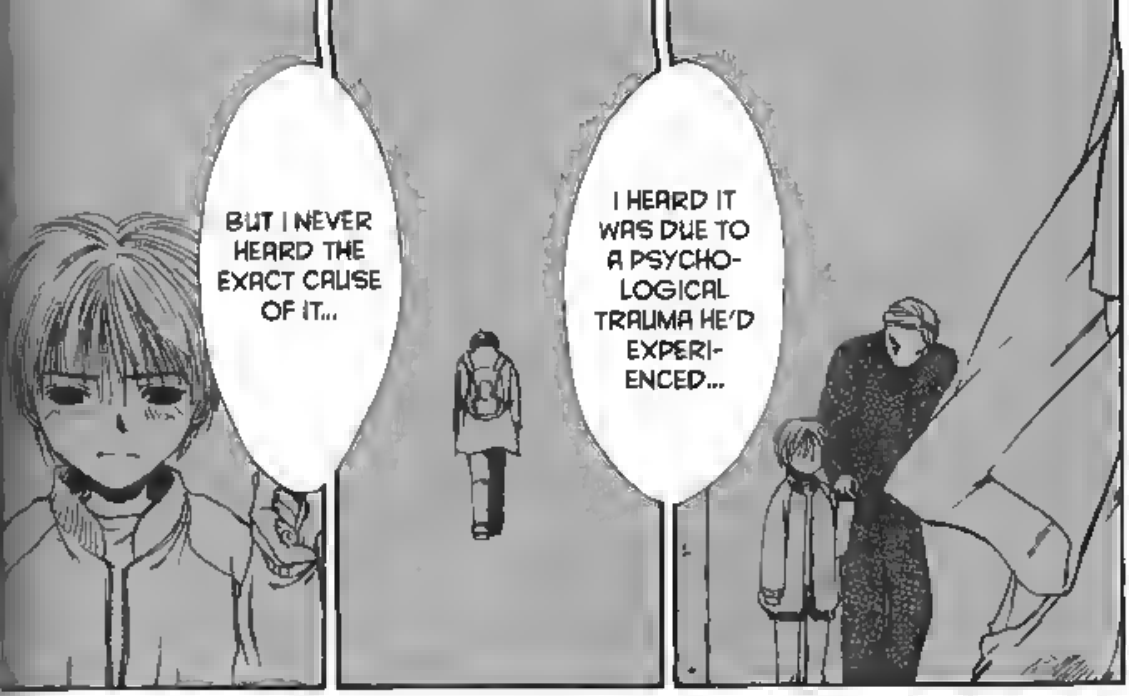
WHAT DO YOU MEAN... "HIDE"?
IT'S JUST THAT THEY CLEARLY TAKE ON ANOTHER PERSONALITY AND THEY HIDE THEMSELVES...
IT'S NOT LIKE THE CHILDREN END UP HURTING OTHERS WHEN THEY'RE POSSESSED...
KLANNG
YOU MEAN...
HIDE-AND-SEEK....
KLANNG
KLANNG
KLANNG
KLANNG
HIDE-AND-SEEK...
THEY LITERALLY HIDE THEM-SELVES...
THEY HIDE THEMSELVES FOR A WHILE AND...
ONCE THEY SHOW UP THEY GO BACK TO THEIR NORMAL SELVES BUT...
THOSE WHO'VE BEEN POSSESSED USUALLY DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED...
IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO...
THE NOISE YOU JUST HEARD IS AN INDICATION OF "I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO COME FIND ME."
IT SEEMS SOME-ONE HAS HIDDEN AGAIN...


AMONG THE CHILDREN I WAS LOOKING AFTER
THERE WAS A CHILD NAME KENJI NAGANO.


AND WE WERE PLANNING ON HAVING CHRISTMAS AT OUR NEW CHURCH.
THE CONSTRUCTION WAS NEARING COMPLETION...
IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE WE RELOCATED OUR CHURCH TO THIS CURRENT SITE.
I THINK IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR...

KENJI-KUN COULDN'T SPEAK SO HE WOULD HIT OBJECTS WITH A STICK.
HE WOULD USE THAT SOUND AS HIS VOICE.
THEY ESPECIALLY LOVED TO PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK. BUT THEY CALLED THE GAME "STICKIE"...
STICKIE?
THEY ALREADY STARTED USING THIS AREA AS THEIR PLAY-GROUND.
ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH WAS STILL UNDER CONSTRUC-TION, I THINK THE CHILDREN WERE SO HAPPY ABOUT OUR NEW "HOME"

BUT WHEN I FIRST MET HIM HE ALREADY COULDN'T SPEAK.
KENJI-KUN WAS BROUGHT HERE BY HIS FATHER
OR THEIR FAMILY IS HAVING PROB-LEMS
MOST OF THE CHILDREN THAT ARE BROUGHT HERE EITHER HAVE NO FAMILY


BUT I NEVER HEARD THE EXACT CAUSE OF IT...
I HEARD IT WAS DUE TO A PSYCHO-LOGICAL TRAUMA HE'D EXPERI-ENCED...

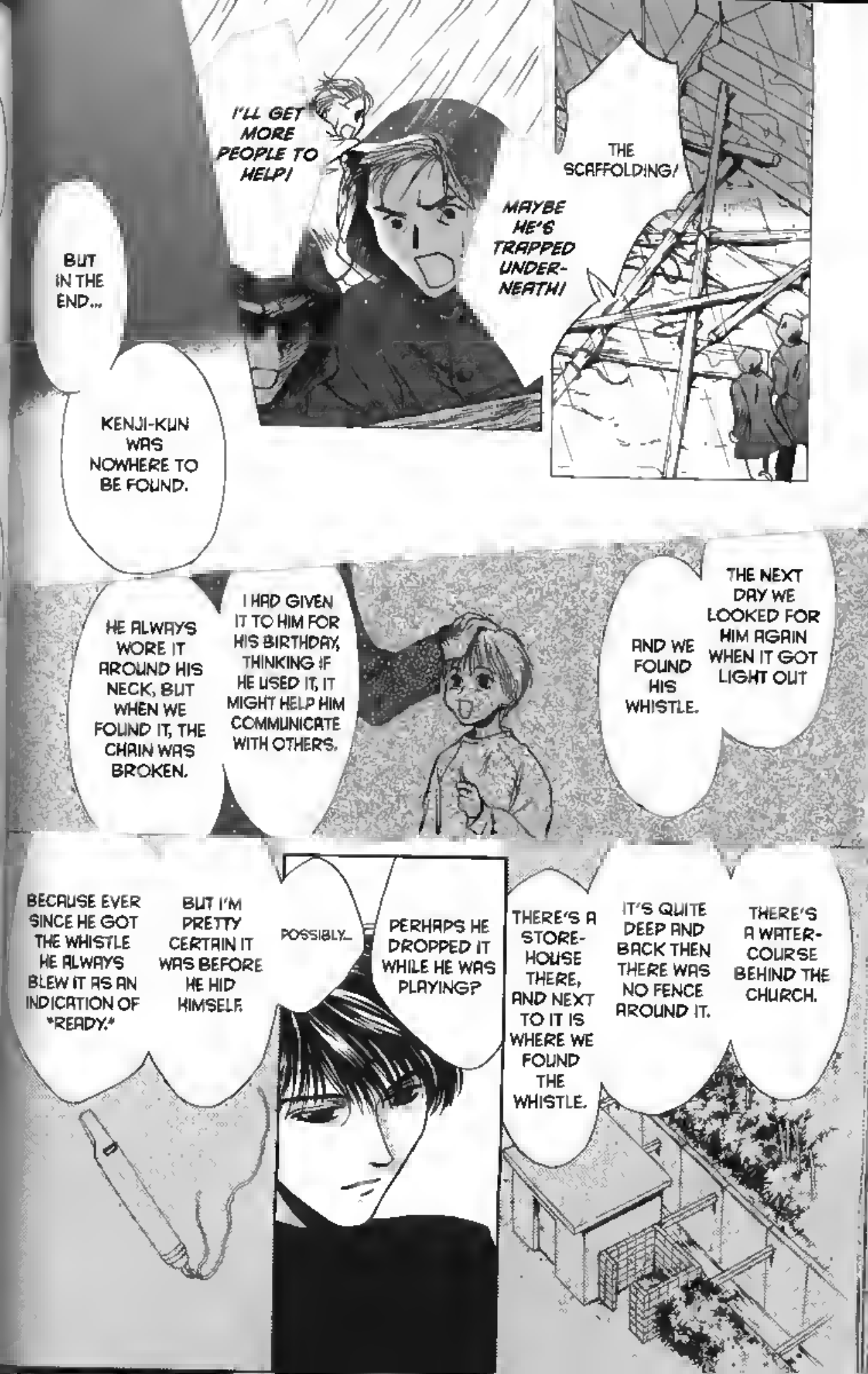
AFTER KENJI-KUN JOINED US, THEY IN-VENTED THE HIDE-AND-SEEK GAME "STICKIE."

DESPITE THE HANDICAP HE WAS STILL A CHEERFUL AND ACTIVE CHILD
AND SOON GOT ALONG WITH OTHER CHILDREN.

BUT THEN ONE DAY...
HE SEEMED TO HAVE SPECIAL HIDING SKILLS BECAUSE WE COULD NEVER FIND HIM...
KENJI-KUN WAS A HIDING EXPERT.

INSTEAD OF SAYING WORDS, YOU HAVE TO USE THE STICK TO CALL OUT SIGNALS.
"NOT READY" IS ONE HIT.
FOR "READY" YOU HIT THE STICK A BUNCH OF TIMES.
LET'S PLAY!

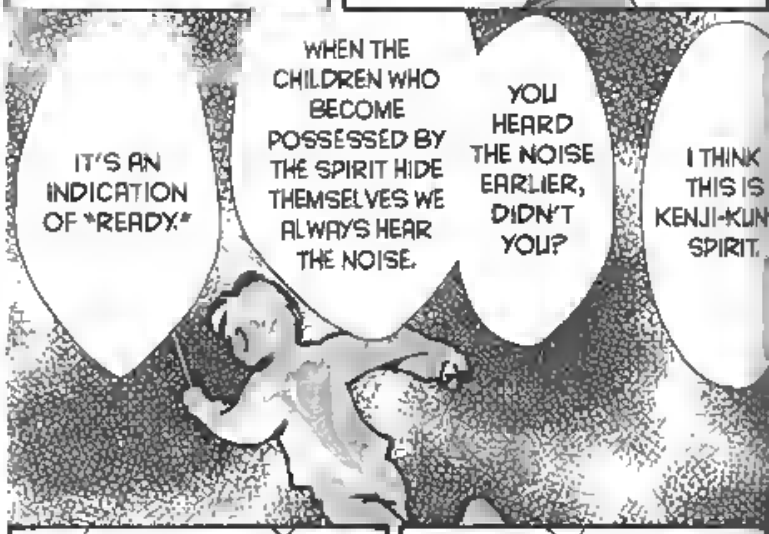
KENJI-KUN VANISHED...
WE SAID, "LET'S GO HOME" BUT HE WOULDN'T COME OUT.
WE WERE PLAYING STICKIE AT OUR NEW HOUSE AND IT STARTED TO RAIN.
UHH...
WHERE IS HE?
I'M GOING TO FIND KENJI-KUN.
YOU GUYS STAY IN HERE.
TAPA TAPA
WHHHHAA...
OVER THIS WAY, HURRY!
FATHER!
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
I DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE.


I'LL GET MORE PEOPLE TO HELP!
THE SCAFFOLDING!
MAYBE HE'S TRAPPED UNDER-NEATH!
BUT IN THE END...
KENJI-KUN WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
HE ALWAYS WORE IT AROUND HIS NECK, BUT WHEN WE FOUND IT, THE CHAIN WAS BROKEN.
I HAD GIVEN IT TO HIM FOR HIS BIRTHDAY, THINKING IF HE USED IT, IT MIGHT HELP HIM COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS.
AND WE FOUND HIS WHISTLE.
THE NEXT DAY WE LOOKED FOR HIM AGAIN WHEN IT GOT LIGHT OUT
BECAUSE EVER SINCE HE GOT THE WHISTLE HE ALWAYS BLEW IT AS AN INDICATION OF "READY."
BUT I'M PRETTY CERTAIN IT WAS BEFORE HE HID HIMSELF.
POSSIBLY...
PERHAPS HE DROPPED IT WHILE HE WAS PLAYING?
THERE'S A STORE-HOUSE THERE, AND NEXT TO IT IS WHERE WE FOUND THE WHISTLE.
IT'S QUITE DEEP AND BACK THEN THERE WAS NO FENCE AROUND IT.
THERE'S A WATER-COURSE BEHIND THE CHURCH.

BONUS STORY... FIVE MEN TO SHARE A SIX MAT ROOM.

NIGHT DUTY ROOM.
UMM...
THREE FUTONS ALREADY FILL UP THE ENTIRE ROOM...
THINK GOD IT'S NOT SUMMERTIME
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TAKIGAWA-SAN?
IF WE CRAMMED OURSELVES IN, WE COULD DO IT...
WE'LL BE FINE IF TWO PEOPLE SLEEP IN THE CLOSET.
THE PROBLEM NOW IS DECIDING WHICH TWO PEOPLE THAT WOULD BE!
I GUESS I COULD DO IT...
AH... I'M... UM...

I MEAN, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY ALL SLEEP AT ONCE THOUGH...


IT'S AN INDICATION OF "READY."
WHEN THE CHILDREN WHO BECOME POSSESSED BY THE SPIRIT HIDE THEMSELVES WE ALWAYS HEAR THE NOISE.
YOU HEARD THE NOISE EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?
I THINK THIS IS KENJI-KUN SPIRIT.

BUT THE SPIRIT IS HARMLESS, AT LEAST SO FAR.
YES.
IT'S ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOOD SPIRIT MAY ESCALATE TO SOMETHING NEGATIVE...

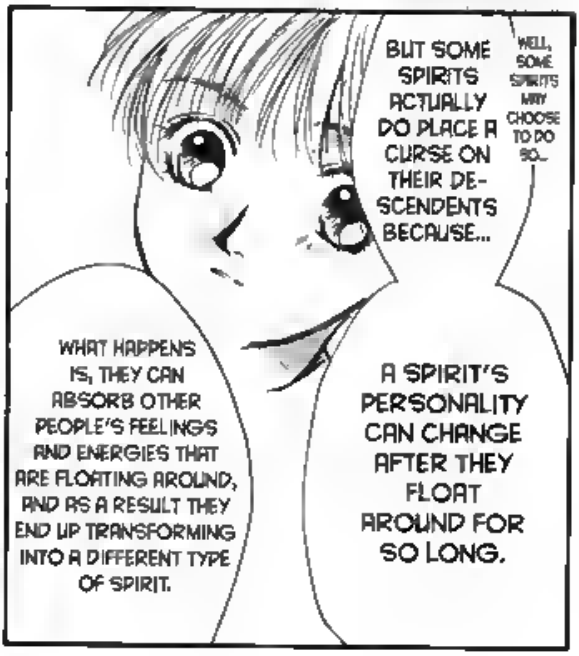
IF ANYONE WERE TO MAKE THAT NOISE, IT MUST BE THE SPIRIT OF KENJI-KUN.
EVER SINCE KENJI-KUN DISAPPEARED, NATURALLY, THE CHILDREN STOPPED PLAYING STICKIE.
AND THAT'S BECAUSE HE LOST HIS WHISTLE?

BUT A PSYCHIC PHENOMENON CAN ALWAYS CHANGE ITS PERSONALITY.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I PERFORMED AN EXORCISM, THE SPIRIT WOULDN'T GO AWAY.
I AGREE THAT KENJI-KUN'S SPIRIT WOULDN'T HARM OTHER CHILDREN WHEN IT POSSESSES THEIR BODIES.

I DON'T BELIEVE HE'S THAT TYPE OF A CHILD...
MY FEELING IS THAT HE JUST WANTS TO BE FOUND

YOU'VE HEARD OF AN "ANCESTOR'S CURSE" HAVEN'T YOU?
BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY WANTED TO PUT A CURSE ON THEIR DESCENDENTS?
I SEE...
IT CAN?

UMM...
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT SPIRITS ARE EASILY INFLUENCED BY THEIR SURROUNDINGS?
AND THE SPIRIT ENDS UP BECOMING FULL OF REGRET FOR THAT SPECIFIC MATTER.
IN OTHER CASES, MAYBE THEY HAVE REGRETS FROM A PAST LIFE.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT...


BUT SOME SPIRITS ACTUALLY DO PLACE A CURSE ON THEIR DESCENDENTS BECAUSE...
WELL, SOME SPIRITS MAY CHOOSE TO DO SO...
WHAT HAPPENS IS, THEY CAN ABSORB OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS AND ENERGIES THAT ARE FLOATING AROUND, AND AS A RESULT THEY END UP TRANSFORMING INTO A DIFFERENT TYPE OF SPIRIT.
A SPIRIT'S PERSONALITY CAN CHANGE AFTER THEY FLOAT AROUND FOR SO LONG.

CAN YOU HELP US?
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO ASK YOU FOR HELP.
LATELY IT SEEMS LIKE THE CHILDREN ARE BEING POSSESSED MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THEY USED TO.
THAT'S RIGHT...
UMM...
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HIS SPIRIT WILL REMAIN A GOOD SPIRIT.
THEN JUST BECAUSE KENJI-KUN WAS A GOOD KID
OF COURSE.
RIGHT THERE.
THEY FOUND KENJI-KUN'S WHISTLE JUST INSIDE THE WALL.

PAT
PAT
HUH...
IT'S LIKE AN INCINERATOR...
AND THIS MUST BE THE WATER-COURSE HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
IT LOOKS PRETTY DEEP.
HUP
MONK-SAN!
HM.
BE CAREFUL!
GYAAHHHH!
HE JUMPED IN!!!
YOU IDIOT!
HAH!
FLTRFLTR

MONK-SAN!!?
GRAAAH!
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
GREEK...
MAI-SAN, THAT'S DANGEROUS!
HUH!? A KID COULDN'T CLIMB OVER THIS WALL.
SO, THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT HAPPENED. HE TRIED TO HIDE HERE.
RIGHT.
AH...
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THERE WAS A LEDGE THERE.
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
AND WHEN HE CLIMBED UP ON THE WALL, HIS CHEST RUBBED AGAINST IT CAUSING THE CHAIN TO BREAK AND THE WHISTLE FELL OFF, RIGHT?
BUT WHEN HE DID, HE FELL INTO THE WATER-COURSE.
THEN JUMPED OVER TO HIDE HIM-SELF.
HE CLIMBED UP ON THIS WALL...
THAT'S MY GUESS...
THAT MEANS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME LUMBER PILED UP HERE.
BUT BACK THEN THE CHURCH WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, RIGHT?
OR MAYBE THERE WAS SCAFFOLDING TO STAND ON.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, NARU-CHAN?
OF COURSE IT IS.
WHISPERING
YOU JERK
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...
THAT WATER WOULD HAVE BEEN COLD...
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD'VE HAPPENED BUT THAT'S MERE GUESS-WORK.
NARU
TOUJO-SAN ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT LUNCH IS READY.
OKAY.
I DON'T PLAY THAT!
GRAB GRAB
わし
わし
YOU BE CAREFUL, TOO
SAFETY IS NUMBER ONE WHEN YOU PLAY HIDE-AND SEEK...
DADDY!
SHRR
OH
WHAT'S THAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO SOUND LIKE AYAKO?
NOT EVEN CLOSE...
THAT'S SO SWEET. I SKIPPED BREAK-FAST, YOU KNOW?
IT'S ALREADY LUNCH-TIME?

FA...
FA...
FA...
FATHER...?
I'M COLD...

OH, TANATTE!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN.
PLEASE LET ME GO...
LIN'S SECRET CHILD?
THAT'S LIN'S SECRET CHILD
SQUEEZE
IS THIS THE BOY? THE ONE YOU MENTIONED AS MISSING?
YES, THAT'S HIM.
HERE TANATTE, COME TO ME...
HIDE
I SEE...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S MISTAKING ME FOR HIS FATHER...
FATHER...
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT I'M NOT...
EVEN SO...
IT WAS OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO SO MY MEMORY IS NOT SO ACCURATE.
FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU MUST LOOK FAMILIAR TO HIM.
WHEN HE SEES SOMEONE WHO RESEMBLES HIS FATHER HE ACTS THIS WAY.

ALTHOUGH HE COULDN'T SPEAK, HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY LOSE HIS VOICE.
ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT SOMETIMES HE WAS ABLE TO USE IT.
HE COULDN'T SPEAK, COULD HE?
THIS BOY JUST SAID "FATHER" VERY CLEARLY.
IF IT'S KENJI NAGANO'S SPIRIT THAT'S BEEN POSSESSING THE CHILDREN...
HE JUST CAME OUT OF HIS PLACE OF HIDING. HE'LL LET YOU GO SOON.
THEN IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD ACTUALLY ASK HIM ANY QUESTIONS...
UNTIL THEN, PLEASE LOOK AFTER HIM.
EH?
THAT'S TANATTE'S FATHER.
REALLY?

I WONDER IF THEY'D LET ME MAKE A COPY OF THIS VIDEO FOOTAGE...
HEH HEH HEH
PERHAPS LIN-SAN REALLY IS MORE OF AN AT-HOME DADDY TYPE THAN WE EVER THOUGHT...?
WELL... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID "STRANGE"...
IT LOOKS STRANGE, INDEED...
THAT LOOKS STRANGE...
SURE.
JOHN, WHY DON'T YOU TRY PERFORMING AN EXORCISM?
THERE'S NO POINT IN MAKING A FAMILY VIDEO HERE.
MAYBE HE'S FEELING RELAXED BECAUSE HE HAS HIS DADDY?
THAT'S CUTE
USUALLY WHEN THE POSSESSED CHILD SHOWS UP, HE LEAVES SOON AFTER, BUT...
OKAY.
JOHN?
I CLOSED ALL THE CURTAINS.
SSRHT
SSRHT

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED BE THY NAME
GASP
THY KINGDOM COME
THY WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
BUT TANATTE'S BODY SHOULD ALSO BE FREED FROM HIS SPIRIT SOON, RIGHT?
YEAH...
THAT'S ALSO TRUE...
KENJI-KUN.
WHO?
I FEEL BAD FOR HIM.
BUT WE'RE ABOUT TO SEPARATE THEM AGAIN.
HE'S HAPPY BECAUSE HE THINKS HE WAS FINALLY REUNITED WITH HIS FATHER.

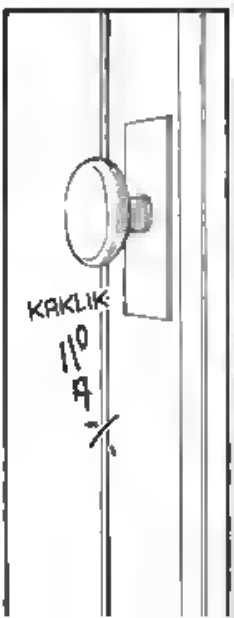
IN PRINCIPIO...
KENJI'S SPIRIT IS OUT OF HIS BODY.
IT'S OKAY NOW...
PHUUU
SHWOOO
DADDY...
PWAAA...
EH?

SHOOON
KRAAAK
HASHOOON
HN.
WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU ALMOST FAINT?
WAS...
SHIVER
WAS THAT A POLTERGEIST...?
THAT WAS PRETTY INTENSE...
WEEEN
ARE YOU OKAY?
DAZED

がばっ
HUG
WHOA
MAI!?
TAH...TAH, TANI... TANIYAMA-SAN!?
WHOA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!
GASP
にっこ
GRINN
SO... SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!!
OH NO, WHAT HAVE I DONE!?
SILLY FACE

GRINNNNNNN

にっこにこにこ



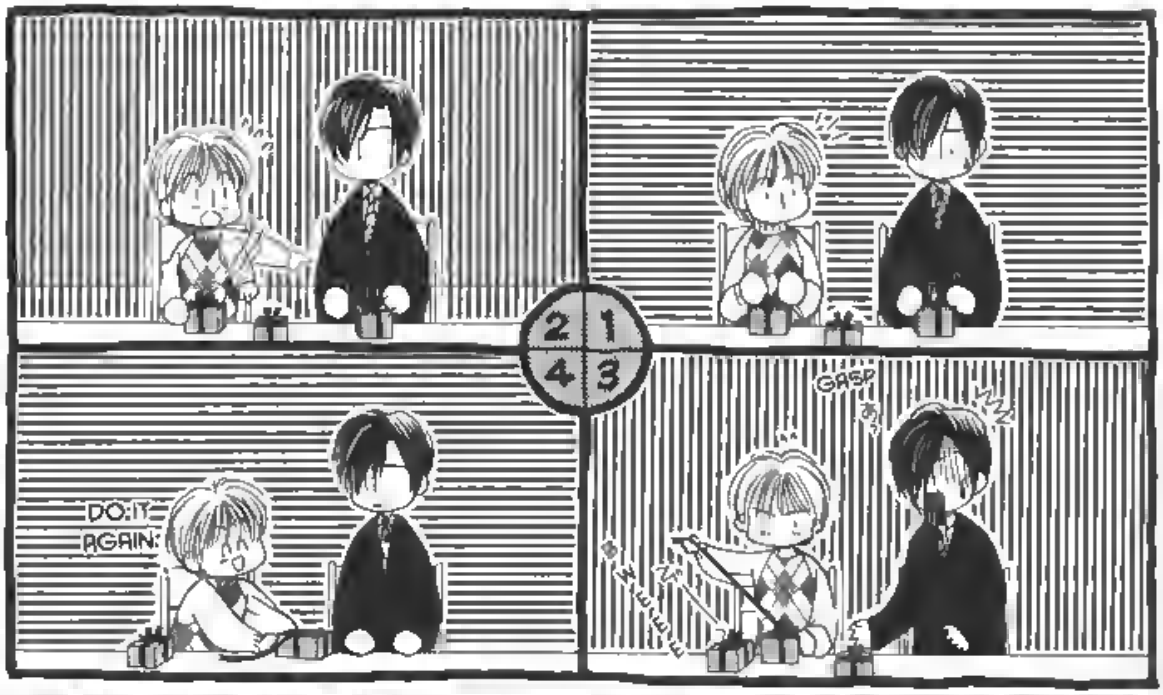
IT'S INTERESTING THAT BOTH OF THOSE THINGS HAPPENED FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.
YOU MENTIONED THE SPIRIT IS POSSESSING CHILDREN'S BODIES MORE FREQUENTLY NOW, BUT IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'VE NOTICED THAT'S DIFFERENT?
WHAT ABOUT THE POLTERGEIST NOISE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE SPIRIT POSSESS ANOTHER CHILD RIGHT AFTER PERFORMING AN EXORCISM.
THAT WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME.
SOON, THEY MAY ALSO DISAPPEAR JUST LIKE KENJI-KUN DID.
AT THIS PACE... THE POSSESSED CHILD IS HIDING MORE FREQUENTLY AND FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.
AND TOJOU-SAN SAID TO ME... THE SPIRITS ARE ALSO HIDING FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.
BUT I CERTAINLY THINK KENJI'S SPIRIT WOULD GET UPSET.
I'M NOT SURE. THE SPIRIT MAY POSSESS ANOTHER BODY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF WE PERFORMED AN EXORCISM ONCE AGAIN?
BUT THIS TIME I COULD FEEL THE SPIRIT RESISTING.
AND BEFORE, I DIDN'T FEEL THAT MUCH RESISTANCE WHEN I PERFORMED AN EXORCISM.
I AGREE.
NARU!

PLEASE HELP ME OUT HERE!
NARU!
JOHN AND MONK-SAN PLEASE STAY WITH THEM
PLAY WITH HER.
I NEED YOU TO TAKE CARE OF MAI FOR AWHILE.
STP STP STP
HARGH
AH, GOD, PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!!
I SHOULDN'T LAUGH/ I CAN'T LAUGH AT THEM/ THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER/
OKAY/
SO WHAT GAMES SHOULD WE PLAY?
I BET HE JUST DOESN'T FEEL LIKE DEALING WITH THIS.
I'M GOING TO AD-JUST THE EQUIP-MENT OR SOME-THING.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH?

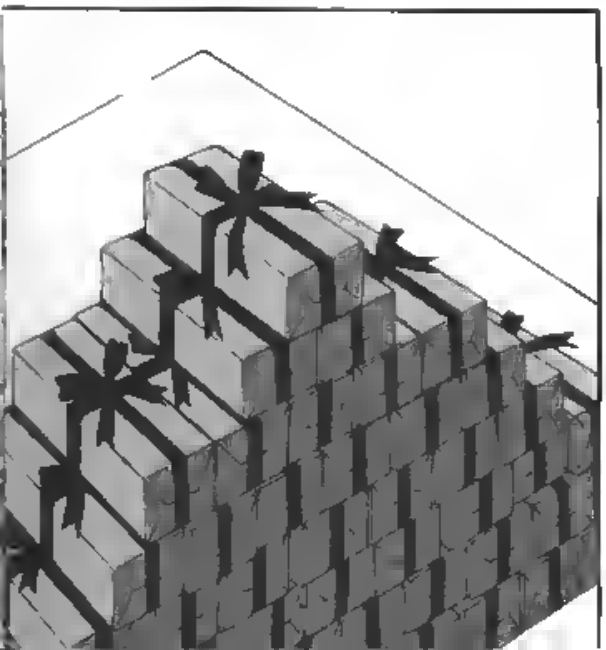
TAKIGAWA-SAN.
IT'S ALL GOOD!
DADDY WILL BE WITH US, TOO. ♡
P...
PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
I SMELL SOMETHING GOOD.
SHALL WE GO CHECK IT OUT?
TAP
HURRY
HURRY
HURRY
AHHHH
AS LONG AS IT'S KENJI'S SPIRIT WITH YOU HE WON'T HIDE.
THOMP
OKAY, GO, GO!

AHHH...
IT LOOKS LIKE A BAKERY.
THAT'S A LOT OF CAKE.
EXCUSE ME.
AH...
GASP
DEPRESSED...
AH.
GRINNN
YOU MUST BE MAKING CHRISTMAS CAKES.
ARE YOU GUYS A COUPLE?
OH, WOW!
AH, THEY'RE HOLDING ARMS.
WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT TO DO? DO YOU WANT TO GO PLAY OVER THERE?
IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN HELP YOU WITH THIS.
OKAY... SHE'S LOOKING VERY EXCITED ABOUT HELPING.
REALLY!?
I SEE.
WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM TO PEOPLE WHO COME TO MASS TONIGHT...
AH, YES.

CAN YOU DO THAT?
FIRST YOU WRAP THE CAKE IN FOIL AND THEN WITH GIFT PAPER.
OKAY THEN...
GRIN
WELL...
GLANCE
SAME RIBBON AS THE CAKE...
TEE HEE
NO, THAT'S THE OPPOSITE WAY!
LIKE THIS?
IF YOU START FROM THIS END IT'LL LOOK BETTER.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT, DUDE.


2 1
4 3
GASP
DO IT AGAIN!

SNICKER
GRIN
LIN'S SPIRIT



YAY!
I'LL DO THE CLEAN-UP YOU MAY GO PLAY NOW.
WE'RE FINISHED ♡
OKAY.
CLAP
CLAP
WOW!
SIGH
OKAY, I'VE HAD IT ENOUGH!
NOW IF ONLY DADDY LIN ACTED MORE SO...
AT LEAST MAI IS PERFECTLY CHILD-LIKE.
SO PEACEFUL
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
DON'T YA THINK?
ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, THEY LOOK KINDA SWEET TOGETHER.
SO PEACEFUL

LET ME GO. I'M NOT YOUR FATHER.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY A SILLY GAME LIKE THIS.
HEY, HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS ANY MORE.
I'M NOT HIM!
PLEASE CALM DOWN...
HEY, LIN-SAN...
DASH
I MEAN, KENJI!
LITTLE GIRL...

AH...
HMM...
SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL...?
WHOOOSH
HE'S HIDDEN SOMEWHERE.
SHOOT...
LIN GOT MAD AND YELLED AT HER SO SHE RAN AWAY.
MAI'S MISSING.
SORRY, NARU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
BAAM!
BAM
BAM
LIKE I SAID
WHAT'S THE BIG...
YOU NEED TO GROW UP
PHEW
GEH!?

BAM
BAM
WE UPSET HIM...
KENJI-KUN...
THAT NOISE...
MAI
!

HOW SOON WILL YOU BE BACK?

TOMORROW? THE DAY AFTER?

DADDY...

DADDY... YOU'RE LEAVING ME AGAIN?

SO PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT FATHER SAYS AND BE A GOOD BOY, OKAY?

I'LL TRY TO COME BACK AGAIN SOON

SEE YOU LATER...
KENJI...
I'LL BE A GOOD BOY...
I'LL BE A GOOD BOY...
SO PLEASE COME GET ME SOON
DADDY!!
WHOOOOSH!

WHOOH
THE NOISE HAS STOPPED...
HMM...
I WONDER WHERE MAI-SAN HAS GONE...
SHOOT.
HOW IS IT?
ガシャッ!
KACHANG
MAI!?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM MAKING SUCH VIOLENT NOISE BEFORE.
KENJI'S SPIRIT SHOULD COME OUT SOON...
BASED ON WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE PAST
FORTUNATELY OR UNFORTUNATELY... I'M NOT SURE...
WHEW
SHE'S NOT IN THE WATER-COURSE, EITHER.
SHE'S NOT HERE.
THAT POLTERGEIST NOISE WE HEARD WAS APPARENTLY A NEW THING WITH THIS SPIRIT AS WELL.
AND THAT...
APPARENTLY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS SPIRIT'S DONE THAT.
BUT MAI WAS NEARBY AND NOW IT'S POSSESSED HER BODY.
JOHN GOT KENJI'S SPIRIT TO LEAVE TANATTE'S BODY.
ALL THE POSSESSED CHILDREN HAVE REAPPEARED ON THEIR OWN BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.
ALSO THE FREQUENCY OF POSSESSIONS HAS INCREASED, AS WELL AS VARIOUS OTHER PHENOMENA THAT HAVE NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
I GUESS IT JUST DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE HIS FATHER FIGURE.
JOHN SAID THAT WHEN HE MADE KENJI'S SPIRIT LEAVE TANATTE'S BODY, IT RESISTED HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME, TOO.

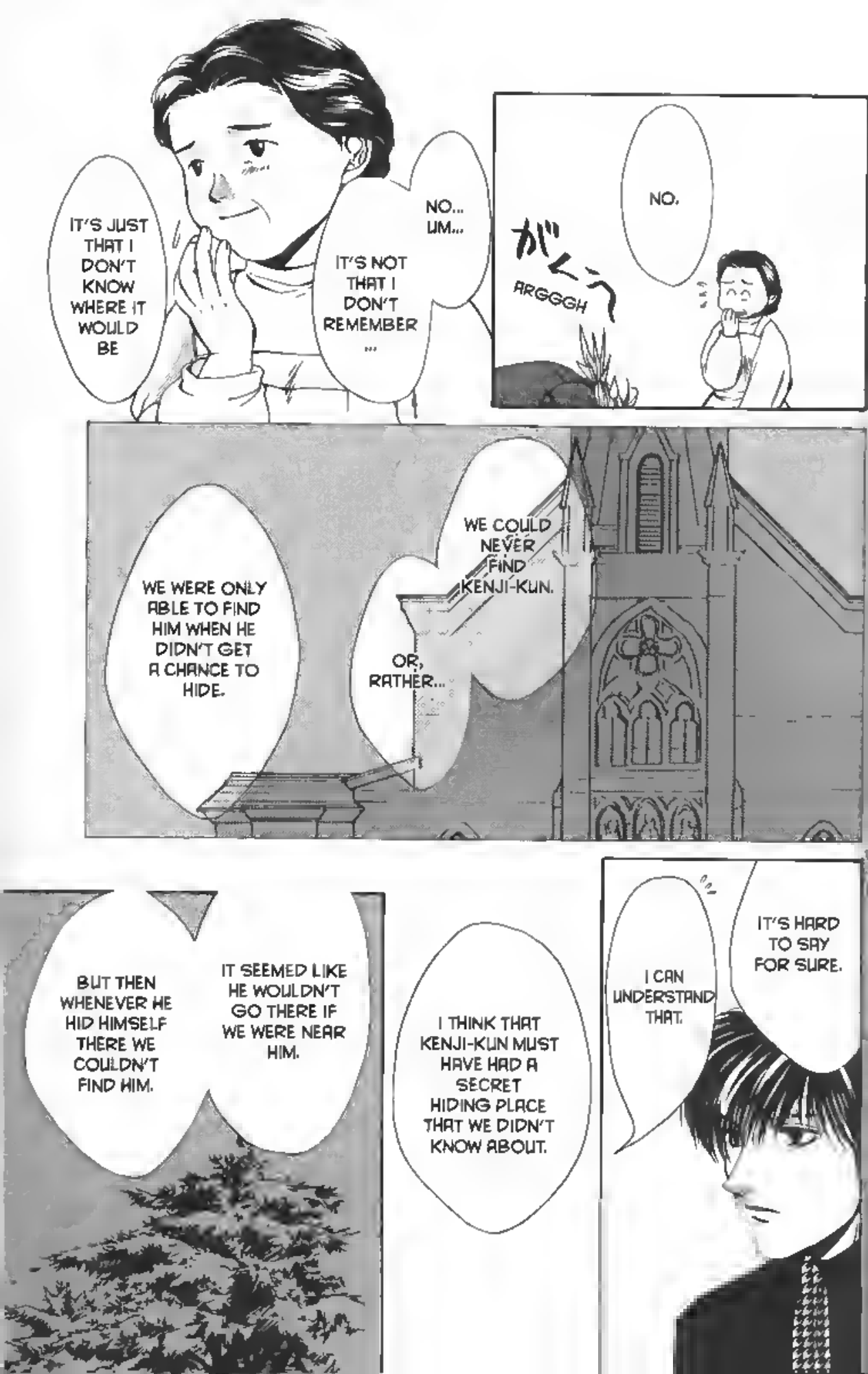
WHAT HAPPENED TO KENJI'S REAL FATHER?
AH, WELL.
GIVE THE POOR GUY A BREAK
OH...?
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO TAKE CARE OF MAI...
WELL, WELL
SO THEN? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
LIN DIDN'T KNOW THE CIRCUM-STANCES...
APPARENTLY HE VANISHED AFTER THAT.
ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE'D RETURN ONCE HE FINISHED HIS WORK...
AFTER LEAVING KENJI AT THE CHURCH, HIS FATHER LEFT TO WORK IN KANSAI.
KENJI HIDES.
HUH?
WHY DO YOU THINK KENJI HIDES?
.....
THEN HE GIVES YOU A SIGNAL TO SAY HE'S READY.
HE COMES OUT ON HIS OWN EVEN IF YOU CAN'T FIND HIM SO TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY IS NOT HIS GOAL.
KENJI WANTS TO BE FOUND, AS FATHER TOJOU MENTIONED. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

AH...
AH... I GOT IT.
I SEE... THAT MAKES SENSE.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
DADDY!
HE WANTS TO COME HOME... THAT'S WHY HE WANTS YOU TO FIND HIM.
THE CHURCH WAS HIS HOME AS WELL, BUT IT WAS JUST TEMPORARY.
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
IT WAS HIS SECOND CHOICE.
NOT TO A PHYSICAL HOME, BUT HOME AS IN ANY PLACE WHERE HE AND HIS FATHER CAN BE TOGETHER.
OR RATHER, COME "HOME."
KENJI WANTS TO COME BACK TO THE CHURCH.

HE'S AT THE CHURCH BECAUSE HIS FATHER IS NOT AROUND BUT...
IF HIS FATHER WAS AROUND HE WOULD RATHER BE WITH HIM.
AT THE SAME TIME THIS CHURCH WAS HIS ONLY POINT OF CONTACT WITH HIS FATHER.
UNLESS SOMEONE FINDS KENJI, HIS FATHER WON'T BE ABLE TO COME PICK HIM UP.
CORRECT.
KENJI WANTS TO COME BACK TO THE CHURCH... OR HIS HOME.
SO HE WANTS TO BE FOUND...
I THINK HE WANTS TO END THIS GAME.
WHOOOOH
JOHN, DID THE CHILDREN ONLY HIDE ON THE CHURCH PREMISES?
LET'S GO FIND HIM.
GOT IT.
I BELIEVE SO.
SIGH

SHE'S NOT EVEN WEARING A JACKET.
IF WE DON'T HURRY AND FIND HIM I WOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT MAI'S HEALTH.
RIGHT.
ALSO, IF YOU CAN, PLEASE FIND A FLOOR PLAN OF THE CHURCH. WE'LL DO A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE BUILDING AND THE ENTIRE PREMISES.
PLEASE GO CONFIRM THAT.
I'M ALREADY OVER THE HILL!
DON'T DEPEND ON AN OLDER MAN!
OH, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, MONK-SAN.
HELLO?
ARE YOU IN HERE?
*NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR.
AH, HELLO.
WOW, WHO ARE YOU!?

WE THOUGHT WE LOOKED, BUT WE REALLY HAVEN'T...
THERE MUST BE SOMEPLACE WE HAVEN'T LOOKED YET.
HNNNK
ACHOO!
I WONDER WHERE SHE'S HIDING...
GHAA... DON'T WORRY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I NEVER PLAYED HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH THE CHILDREN.
HI THERE.
I'M NOT SURE...
TOJOU-SAN
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE KENJI LIKED TO HIDE?
AH!
DO YOU REMEMBER IT?
THE PLACE KENJI USED TO HIDE WHEN YOU GUYS PLAYED STICKIE.
YOU USED TO PLAY WITH HIM AS A KID, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S RIGHT... YUKIYO-SAN, WOULDN'T YOU REMEMBER?
AH.
HAVE SOME TEA.
I BET IT WAS COLD OUTSIDE.
AH, THANK YOU


IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT WOULD BE
NO... UM...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T REMEMBER ...
NO.
がくっ
ARGGGH
WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO FIND HIM WHEN HE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO HIDE.
WE COULD NEVER FIND KENJI-KUN.
OR, RATHER...
BUT THEN WHENEVER HE HID HIMSELF THERE WE COULDN'T FIND HIM.
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WOULDN'T GO THERE IF WE WERE NEAR HIM.
I THINK THAT KENJI-KUN MUST HAVE HAD A SECRET HIDING PLACE THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.
IT'S HARD TO SAY FOR SURE.

!!!
YES. THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
SO, UNLESS HE GOES INTO HIS SECRET HIDING AREA HE COULDN'T HIDE...
HE WOULD LOSE HIS "CHANCE" TO HIDE.
SOMETIMES NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE LOOKED, WE COULDN'T FIND HIM. WE'D CALL OUT THAT WE GAVE UP BUT HE STILL WOULDN'T COME OUT.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE COULDN'T COME OUT BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS THERE AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE AWAY HIS SECRET HIDING PLACE.
AFTER EVERY-ONE ELSE HAD BEEN FOUND HE WOULD SHOW UP ON HIS OWN.
AH...
I THINK I CAN RELATE TO THAT.
LIKE THE FEELING OF WINNING FIRST PLACE IN A COMPETITION.
THAT'S WHEN KENJI-KUN WOULD HAVE HIS BIGGEST SMILE...
I STILL REMEMBER IT VIVIDLY...
DID THE GAME ONLY TAKE PLACE ON THESE PREMISES?
YES.
GOING OUTSIDE WAS AGAINST THE RULES.
AH, PERHAPS...
ARE THERE ANY HIDDEN ROOMS OR SECRET PATHWAYS HERE?
NO, NONE.

TOJOU-SAN, MAY I BORROW YOUR CHILDREN?
.....
HUH?
I'LL HAVE THE CHILDREN LOOK FOR MAI.
WHAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, NARU-CHAN?
KREEK
ARE YOU TRYING TO REENACT THE HIDE-AND-SEEK SCENE?
BUT IF THE CHILDREN COULDN'T FIND KENJI...
I'LL FOLLOW THE CHILDREN WHILE THEY LOOK FOR MAI
THIS TIME
YOU WON'T FIND HER IN PLACES THE CHILDREN WOULD THINK TO LOOK.
YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK IN THE PLACES THE CHILDREN DON'T THINK TO LOOK, RIGHT?
!
WOW! WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA!
LET'S HURRY.

SO...
I NEED ALL OF YOU TO GO FIND THIS GIRL.
YEEES!
OKAY?
OKAY. THEN...
LET'S START!
CHATTER
CLAP!
OKAY!
CHATTER
HEY OLD MAN, COULDN'T YOU FIND HER?
I'M NOT OLD!
AND NO, I COULDN'T FIND HER.
BUT YOU LOOKED A LOT.
YES, I DID.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
GRIN
HE'S PRETTY SURE OF WHAT HE JUST SAID.
MUMBLE

THIS ISN'T WRESTLING, THIS IS HIDE-AND-SEEK!
AHHHH
HEY!
CHATTER
DON'T BE A SMART ASS.
GRRR!
KYAAAH.
TURN
TURN
PLEASE LET GO OF ME...!
AHH..
JO..
JOHN.
WEEE
WEEE
THEY MAY APPEAR CHEERFUL BUT THEY'VE BEEN APART FROM THEIR PARENTS FOR A LONG TIME...
I WOULD GUESS THAT THEY ARE VERY LONELY...
AH...I SEE...
.....
I'M NOT SURE IF THEY'RE OVER-FRIENDLY OR IF THEY JUST DON'T HAVE ANY MANNERS OR...
HUH...
I FEEL DIZZY..
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES..

I'LL WORK HARD... VERY HARD!
AH
GLARE
I WOULD THINK SO...
I'M LIKE THEIR FATHER FIGURE, TOO!?
SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
OUCH... THAT HURTS...
BTAM
HUH.
TAKA
TAKA
SQUEEK
BY THE WAY...
THE CHILDREN ARE LOOKING IN A LOT OF THE SAME PLACES THAT WE LOOKED.
HMM...
I NEVER NOTICED, BUT
THEY DON'T LOOK AT ANYTHING HIGHER THAN THEIR HEADS.
SNICKER
I WONDER IF THEY'RE REALLY LOOKING...

HIGH AREAS! NOBODY'S BEEN LOOKING IN HIGH AREAS!
JOHN
HN?
ONES THAT ARE AT OUR HEIGHT!
BUT THERE ARE AREAS THAT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING...
THE CHILDREN ARE ALL LOOKING IN PLACES THAT WE'VE ALREADY LOOKED...
THAT WOULD BE THE SAME FOR OUTSIDE, WOULDN'T IT!?
THEN...
THAT'S THE SAME FOR US, WE DIDN'T LOOK IN THE HIGH AREAS EITHER.
THEY'RE NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT PLACES THAT ARE HIGHER THAN THEIR EYE LEVELS.

WHAT ABOUT UP IN THE TREES?
BUT THE HIGH AREAS COULD MEAN...
NOT MUCH LUCK...
HMM...
I'LL START OVER THERE.
CAN SHE CLIMB THOSE THINGS?
THE TREES... HUH...
MAI-SAN!
THEN I'LL START FROM OVER HERE...
YOU ALREADY FOUND HER!?
EH!?

UH

GASP
RIGHT?
YOU MUST BE SATISFIED NOW...

IT REALLY WASN'T NECESSARY FOR YOU TO HIDE UNTIL THIS LATE!
JEEZ!
YOU LOOK PALE!

YOU FOUND HER?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

PLEASE GIVE ME A BREAK!!
WE'RE BACK TO THE BEGINNING! WHAT DO WE DO, JOHN-SAN!?
AHHH. OH NO!!!
NOT YOU AGAIN!!!
JUST CALM DOWN

WE FINALLY DID IT.
IT WASN'T EVEN THAT KENJI SHOWED UP ON HIS OWN.

GRNT
DIDN'T YOU WANT ME TO FIND HER?
NARU-CHAN...

I FOUND HIM.
BUT...
HUH?
SST
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL.
I LOOKED UP THERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO TOO...

IN...
SUCH A PLACE...

SHOO
GRIN
THANK YOU.

AHH

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I WONDER HOW HE CLIMBED UP THAT HIGH?
BACK THEN THERE WAS SCAFFOLDING BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION.
GO GET THE LADDER!
I'M SURE SHE'S EXHAUSTED FROM BEING POSSESSED FOR SO LONG.
SHE'S STILL SLEEPING.
OH?
HOW'S MAI DOING?
MAYBE THAT WAS JUST HIS STYLE.
I WONDER WHY HE WAS HIDING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

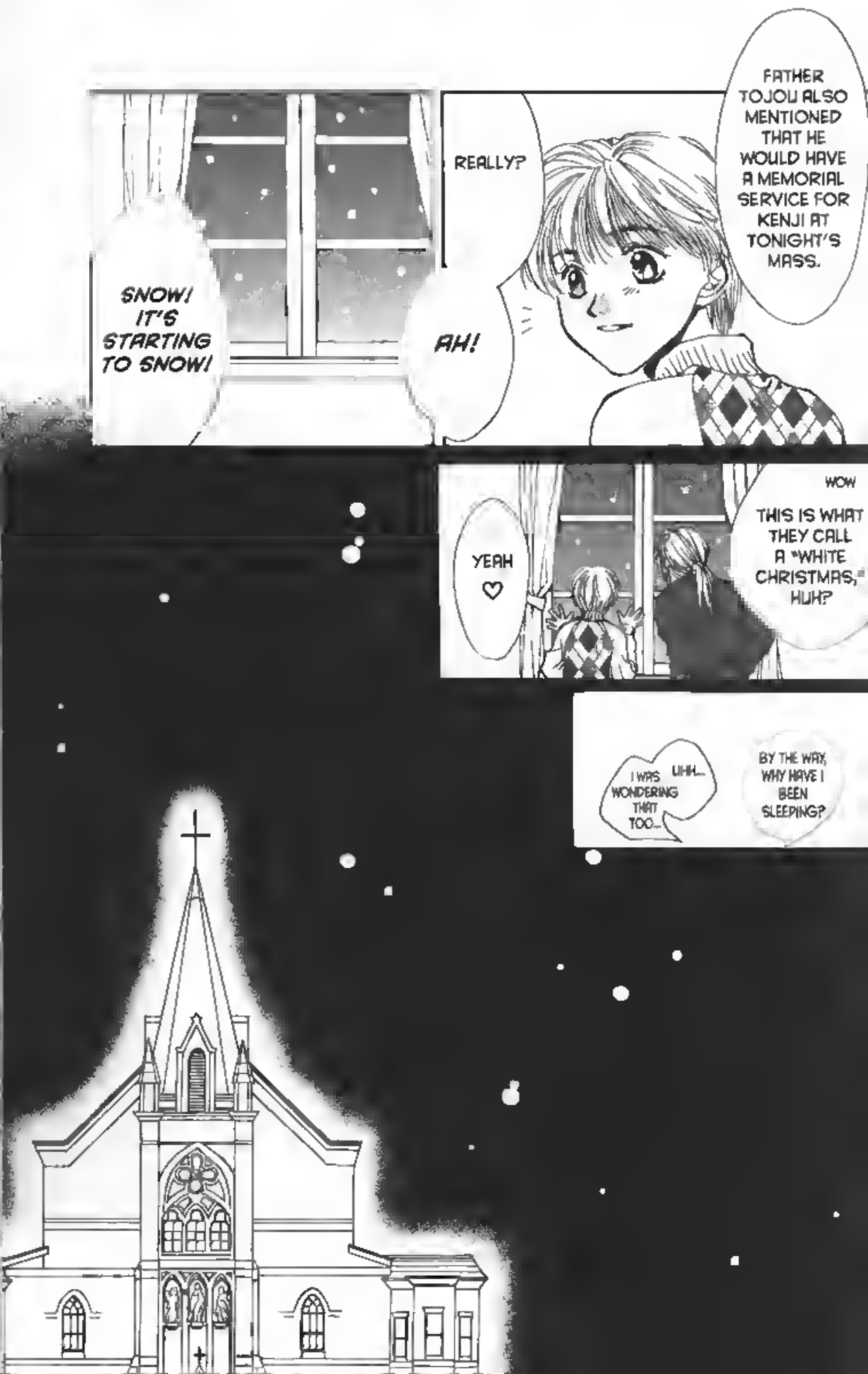
HAA
THEN IN REALITY WE WERE DILIGENTLY LOOKING IN PLACES THAT WERE ONLY AT MAI'S FOOT LEVEL.
ESPECIALLY IF WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S HIDING, OUR FIRST THOUGHT IS TO LOOK BEHIND OR INSIDE THINGS.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE WOULD THINK ABOUT BUT WE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO AREAS WHERE WE HAVE TO LOOK UP TO SEE.
HUMANS HAVE A NATURAL TENDENCY NOT TO PAY ATTENTION TO HIGH AREAS
BUT CONSIDERING THAT NO ONE HAD BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANY OF THE CHILDREN WHEN HIS SPIRIT HAD POSSESSED THEM...
IT MAY HAVE BEEN A COINCIDENCE THAT HE HID IN A TREE THIS TIME.
KENJI PROBABLY KNEW THAT HIGH PLACES WERE THE BEST WHEN PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WHISTLE?
SO I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS LIKELY THAT HE'D TRY TO HIDE HIMSELF IN HIGH AREAS.
AH, AND WHILE YOU WERE LOOKING IN HIGH AREAS, YOU FOUND HIM.

HIS WHISTLE WAS FOUND BEHIND THE STORE-HOUSE.
WELL
MONK-SAN SPECULATED THAT KENJI CLIMBED UP OVER THE WALL AND JUMPED INTO THE WATER-COURSE AREA. THAT'S STILL POSSIBLE.
BUT IF HE WAS ABLE TO CLIMB UP ONTO THE WALL HE SHOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO CLIMB UP ONTO THE STOREHOUSE, TOO.
MAYBE HE DROPPED HIS WHISTLE THEN AND DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT, HUH?
HE PROBABLY WENT TO HIDE IN THE SPACE BEHIND THE SCULPTURE.
BACK THEN THERE WAS SCAFFOLDING AROUND THE CHURCH.
HE MUST HAVE CLIMBED UP THE SCAFFOLD-ING TO GET UP THERE.
AND THEN HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T COME OUT
WHILE HE WAS WAITING FOR EVERYONE TO GO AWAY,
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW HIS SECRET HID-ING PLACE.
THE SCAFFOLDING COLLAPSED.
EITHER WAY...

BEING TRAPPED THERE, I'M SURE HE COULDN'T AVOID GETTING RAINED ON WITH A COLD DECEMBER RAIN...
KARARN
OH NO... FATHER AND THE OTHERS ARE LEAVING ME...
I'M RIGHT HERE...
HEY...!
KENJI-KUN!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND HIM.
LET'S LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WE CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE.
WHERE IS HE!?

FATHER...
IT'S COLD.
BRL
WHY CAN'T ANYBODY FIND ME?
I'M RIGHT HERE...
HE WOULD FIND ME FOR SURE...
IF MY FATHER WAS HERE...

I SEE...
YOU GUYS FOUND KENJI-KUN.
AH
ALTHOUGH I FEEL BAD FOR KENJI-KUN...
GASP
IT WAS HILARIOUS WATCHING LIN-SAN DEAL WITH TANATTE!
I KNOW.
HOW SAD...
ALTHOUGH I'M GLAD HE WAS ABLE TO COME HOME TO THE CHURCH
HN...
BUT IT'S GOOD THAT WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE HIS SPIRIT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
I'M SURE HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SPENDING IT AT THE CHURCH'S NEW HOME.
ALTHOUGH KENJI-KUN, WHEN HE WASN'T POSSESSING TANATTE'S BODY, ALSO SEEMED PRETTY HAPPY AS WELL...
?
GIGGLE


SNOW! IT'S STARTING TO SNOW!
AH!
REALLY?
FATHER TOJOU ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD HAVE A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR KENJI AT TONIGHT'S MASS.
YEAH ♡
WOW
THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A "WHITE CHRISTMAS," HUH?
I WAS WONDERING THAT TOO...
UHH...
BY THE WAY, WHY HAVE I BEEN SLEEPING?

About the Creators of Ghost Hunt

ABOUT THE CREATOR

•

Shiho Inada

Born on October 17 in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Sign: Libra.

Blood type: B.

She made her debut with *Camouflage* in 1994.

Her best-known work is *Ghost Hunt*.

ABOUT THE WRITER

•

Fuyumi Ono

Born in Oita Prefecture.

She made her debut with *Teen's Heart*,
published on Kodansha X Library.

Her most popular works: the *Evil Spirit* series and the
Twelve Kingdom series.

Her works are widely read and although her novels are considered young adult fiction, her works are read by people from all walks of life.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

PAGE 2, *KANSAI-BEN*

The Japanese term for someone who speaks in a dialect used in the Kansai region of Japan is *Kansai-ben*. John Brown studied Jepanese in Kansai and speaks Kansai dialect. Tokyo, on the other hand, is located in the Kanto region of Japan. Japanese spoken in Tokyo; however, is not known as Kanto dialect. It is simply called *hyojungo*, which literally translates as "standard Japanese."

PAGE 2, *MIKO*

Miko means a priestess serving as an assistant at a shrine. In ancient times the *miko* served as a psychic medium. Today she mainly assists the priest in ceremonies and also performs ceremonial dances (*miko-mai*). Many people still believe that they regularly perform their ancient psychic duties.

PAGE 12, HEY, YOU!

Omae (Hey you) is a rude way of calling someone you just met. Matsuyama is calling Naru "omae" and being disrespectful to him.

PAGE 13, SHORTER CLASS SCHEDULE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

In Japan most seniors in high school have a shorter class schedule by their third semester so that they can focus on studying for the university entrance exam. In general Japanese universities are hard to enter, and the competition to get into Japanese elite universities is extremely difficult. There's even a Japanese phrase *juken jigoku* which literally translates into "entrance exam hell."

PAGE 13, OUTSTANDING!

Takigawa and Mai are impressed with Osamu still being the student council president at their (senior) busiest time of the year, since most seniors are busy studying for the university entrance exam by this time of the year.

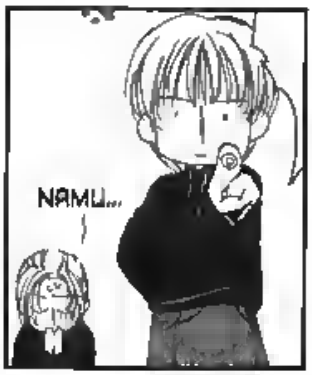
DO YOU STILL FIND ENOUGH TIME TO STUDY FOR YOUR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM?
HE STILL FINDS TIME TO BE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT IN HIS SENIOR YEAR?
OUTSTANDING!

PAGE 16, HOWLING OF A DEFEATED DOG

Makeinu no touboe means "loser's howl," end is used to describe someone who complains after the decision is made. Here, Matsushima is being a jerk and doesn't know what he's talking about but he's still trying to argue with Naru so Mai is trying to make a point after he left the room... but she ended up using the wrong words...

PAGE 16, NAMU...

Takigawa is chanting because Mai made an embarrassing mistake and he has nothing else to say...



PAGE 45, KOKKURI-SAN

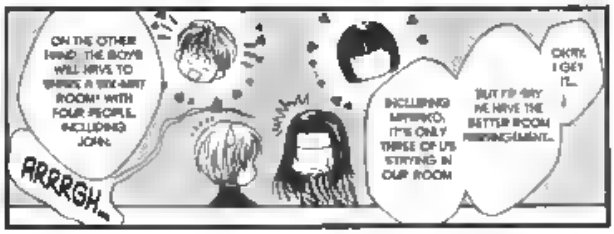
Kokkuri-san is a type of fortune telling. It is sometimes believed that a fortune can be told by a fox spirit possessing someone's body. Generally performed by three people pressing one 10-yen coin [10 yen = approx.10 cent] on a piece of paper with multiple letters written on it and telling the fortune by seeing the letters that the coin points to. This is somewhat similar to a Ouija board, but the risk that you take by performing *kokkuri-san* is that someone in the room may become possessed by the spirit that is summoned during the session.

PAGE 53, JAPANESE-STYLE CLOSET

A Japanese-style closet, o*shi-ire*, is a built-in fixture for a Japanese style room and is about the size of one tatami mat (six feet long by three feet wide). O*shi-ire* has a shelf in the middle that divides the closet into top and bottom storage spaces. Traditionally o*shi-ire* is used as a storage space for a futon when it is not in use.

PAGE 53, JAPANESE-STYLE ROOM

A Japanese-style room is called *washitsu*—the word *wa* means harmony (or peace) and *shitsu* means "room." *Washitsu* consists of *tatami* flooring as opposed to the wood or tile flooring of the rest of the house. The window and door fixtures of *washitsu* are sliding partitions called *shoji* and *fusuma*. *Shoji* is a light sliding screen consisting of a framework of wood covered with thin Japanese paper (*washi*). *Shoji* are mostly used as a partition between e porch-like area (or a garden) and a room. *Fusuma* are papered (or cloth) sliding doors for partitioning rooms.


ON THE OTHER HAND THE BOYS WILL HAVE TO SHARE A SIX-MAT ROOM* WITH FOUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING JOHN.
ARRRGH...
INCLUDING MIYAKO, IT'S ONLY THREE OF US STAYING IN OUR ROOM
BUT I'D SAY WE HAVE THE BETTER ROOM ARRANGEMENT...
OKAY, I GET IT...

PAGE 58, TATAMI MAT

A *tatami* is a straw mat about six feet long by three feet wide, with an average of 2.4 inches in thickness (a slight variation in size may be found in different regions of Japen). It is used for flooring Japanese rooms. Thenks to this tradition, the term *jo* (a unit, one mat in size) is still used today in Japan to describe the size of a room, even for Western-style rooms without *tatami* mats.

THEY SAY I HAVE THE SMILE OF A KIND OLD MAN BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT I'M COOKING UP BEHIND THAT NICE SMILE.
THEY CALL ME "OLD MAN".
PEOPLE TELL ME THAT I ACT MATURE FOR MY AGE.
YASUHIRA-SAN... YOU'RE A VERY CALM PERSON.

PAGE 95, ECHIGOYA

In the original Japanese, they don't call Osamu "old man"—they call him Echigoya. Echigoya was the most successful kimono fabric store during the feudal Edo period in Japan, and it was established in 1673 by Takatoshi Mitsui. It is the forerunner of the modern Mitsukoshi department store. By calling him Echigoya, they are saying he seems really old.

THIS IS THE "SYMBOL OF FUDO MYOO."
STRAIGHTEN YOUR BACK, KEEPING THAT HAND POSITION, AND SAY, "NAU MAKU SAN MANDA BAZARA DANKAN"
LIKE— THIS?

PAGE 99, FUDO MYOO

Fudo Myoo means immutable one, and he is the Buddhist god of fire. Fodo Myoo is the principal deity of the Five Angry Lords of Light and is known for his fleming sword and his rope. Here Takigawa is showing Mai how to perform an exorcism by instructing her how to make the symbolic signs of Fudo Myoo and chant mantra.

PAGE 99, *KANCHOU*

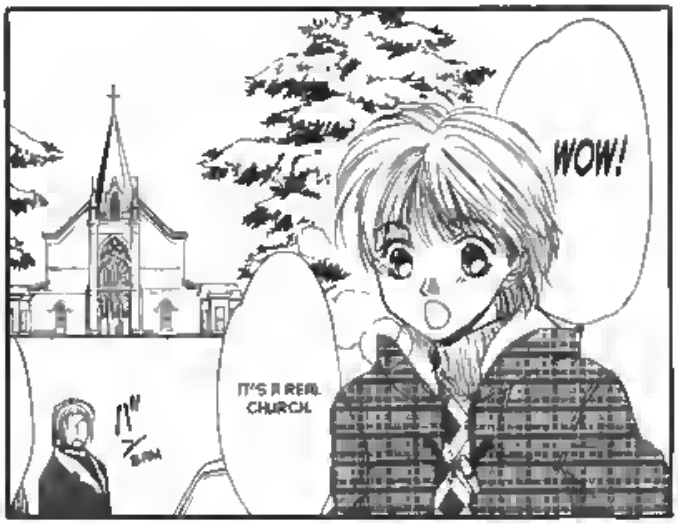
The literal meaning of *Kanchou* is to give an enema, but sometimes Japanese children will kid around and point both index fingers and wrap the rest of their fingers to make the symbol of *kanchou*. They follow other kids with their hands in this formation as if they are about to give an enema to them, and the children will try to run away. Here, Mai is making the Fudo Myoo symbol but she can't help being reminded of *kanchou*.

PAGE 103, BUCKWHEAT CHAFF

Traditional Japanese pillows are filled with buckwheat chaff or red beans. Here Takigawa is handing over a pillow filled with buckwheat chaff, which is old-fashioned, but because of that it's meant to be a cute and funny scene in the story.

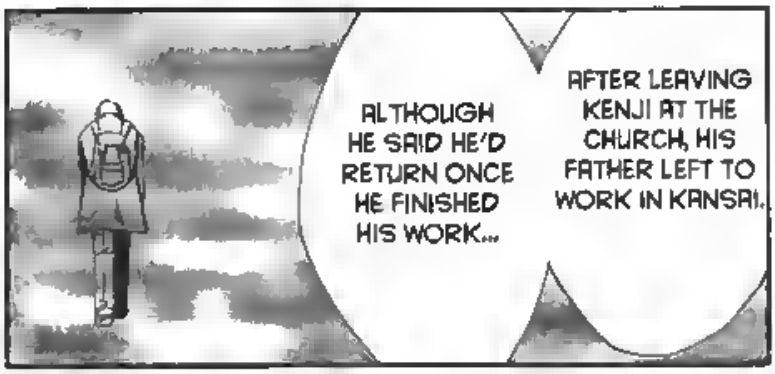
PAGE 105, COVERING CAT

There are many Japanese sayings that reference cats. One of them is *neko-kaburi*, which literally means "covering yourself with cat." It indicates fake modesty, a put-on, or hiding one's claws. Osamu here was ordering Mai around and started to show his true character as president of his student council, and Takigawa is busting his chops in a friendly way, by telling him that Masao had been quiet all this time and now he is finally coming out.



PAGE 108, CHURCHES IN JAPAN

There aren't as many churches in Japan as in the U.K. This is the first time Mai has ever seen a church in person and she's very excited about it.



PAGE 146, KANSAI

Kansai is a region in Japan, which includes, Nara, Osaka, Kyoto, and Kobe. The dialect spoken in Kansai is called *Kansai-ben* (Kansai dialect).

PAGE 154, *OJI-CHAN* AND *ONII-CHAN*

In the original Japanese, the little boy calls Takigawa *Oji-chan*. *Oji-chan* means an old man or an uncle and *onii-chan* means an older brother. *Onii-chan* can also be used to call a familiar man who is simply older than you. Here, the child is calling Takigawa *oji-chan* as an old man, but he's correcting her to call him *onii-chan* (an older brother-like man) because he doesn't want to be treated as an old man. [FYI: be careful not to get *oji-chan* mixed up with a similar word, *ojii-chan*, which means grandfather.]

ゴーストハンド
——禁じられた遊び
FILE 4

A-HAUNTING WE WILL GO!

After a schoolboy's suicide, the team at Shibuya Psychic Research must unravel mysteries at a local high school. As fires break out in an empty office and a stinky smell sickens an entire classroom, the ghost hunters' job will take both courage and a strong stomach.

The team also investigates a church with a mysterious spirit that haunts only children, and in a hilarious twist, Mai is possessed and thinks that Lin is her daddy. But laughs quickly turn to concern when Lin hides in the snow and cannot be found. Now it's very important that SPR saves him before he freezes to death!

Includes special extras after the story!

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BYAAAH SCANS

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